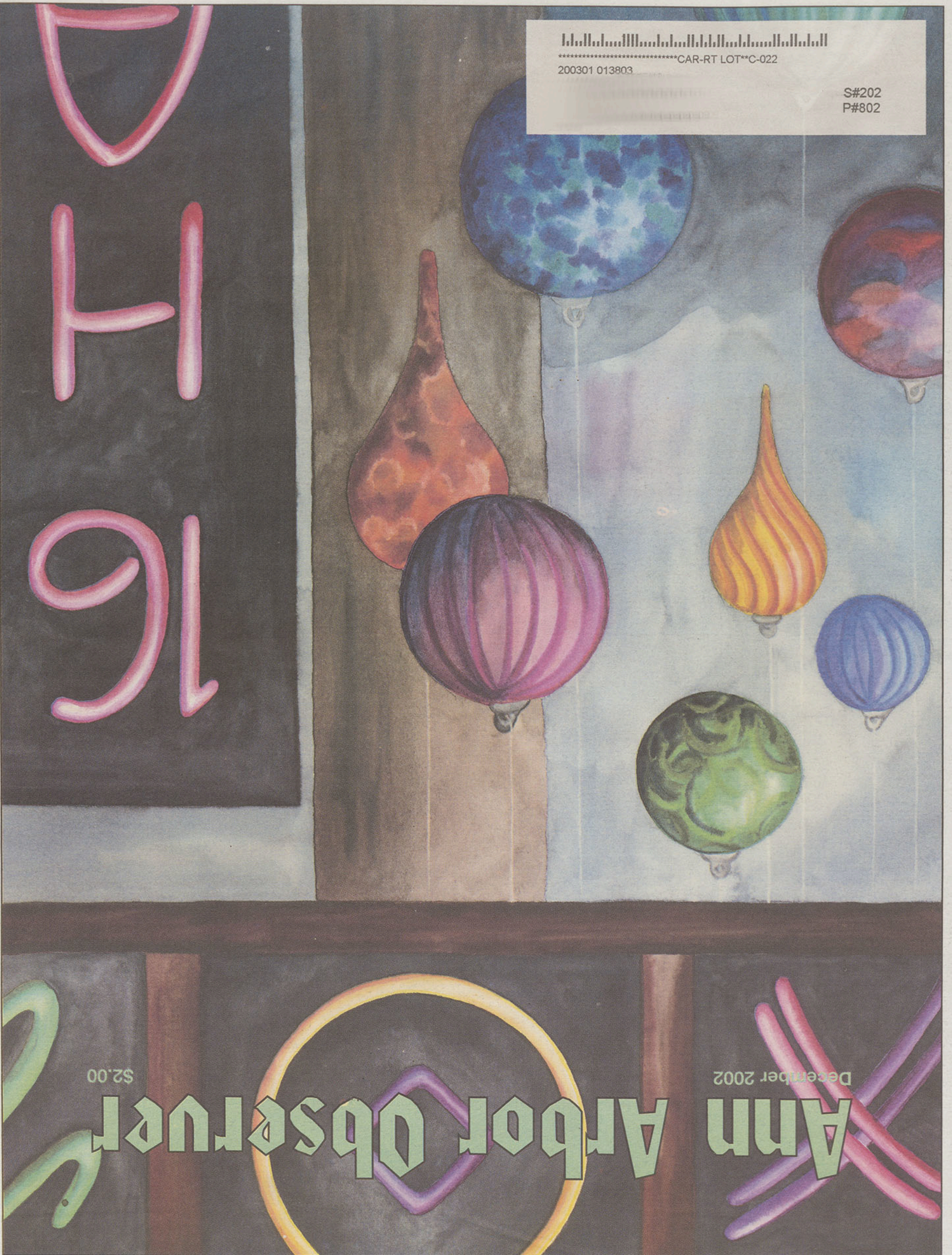


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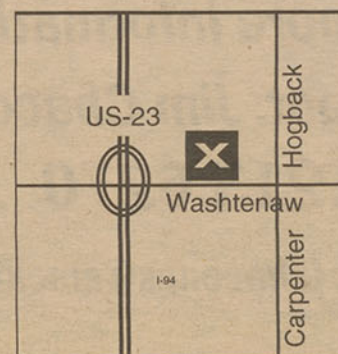


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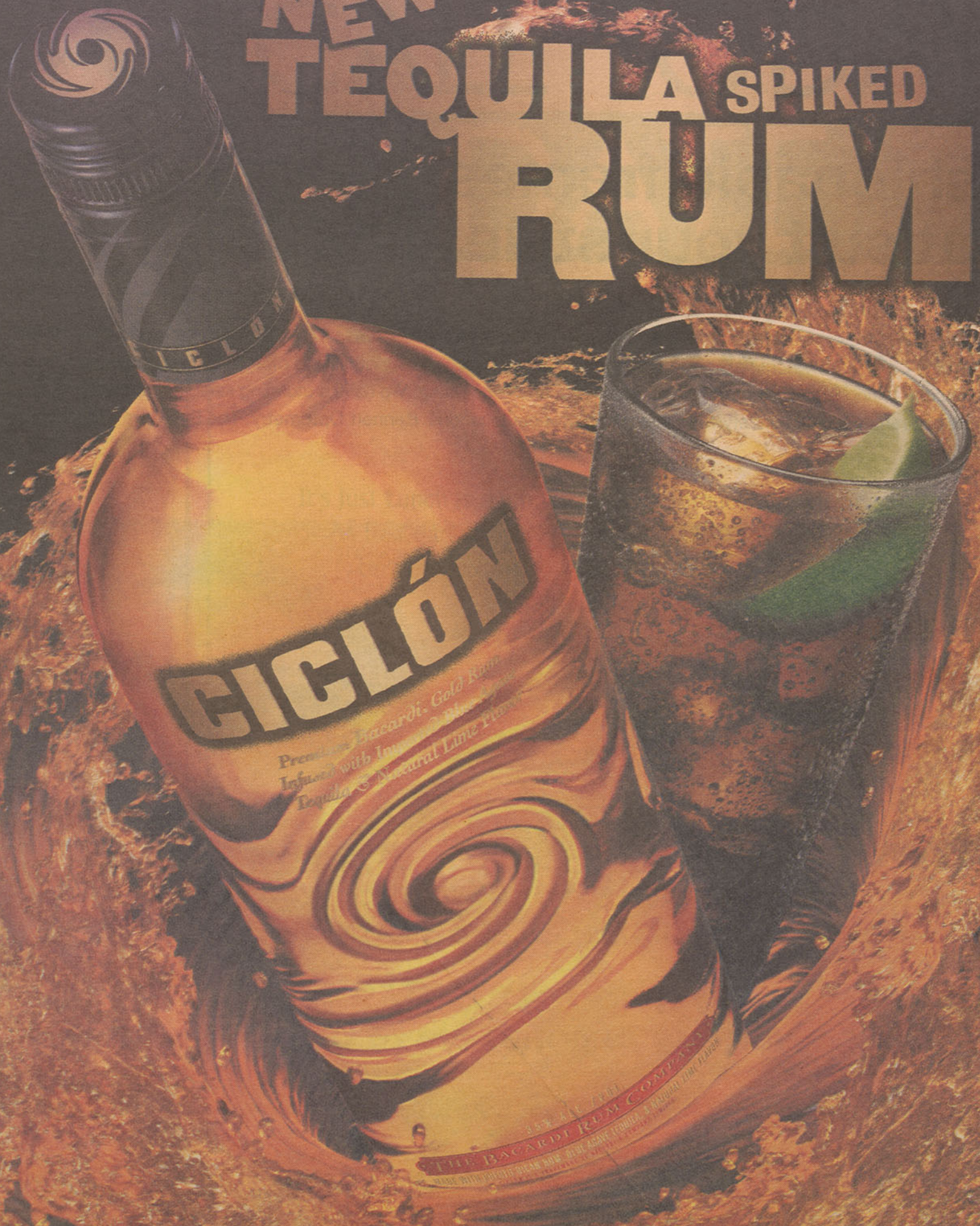
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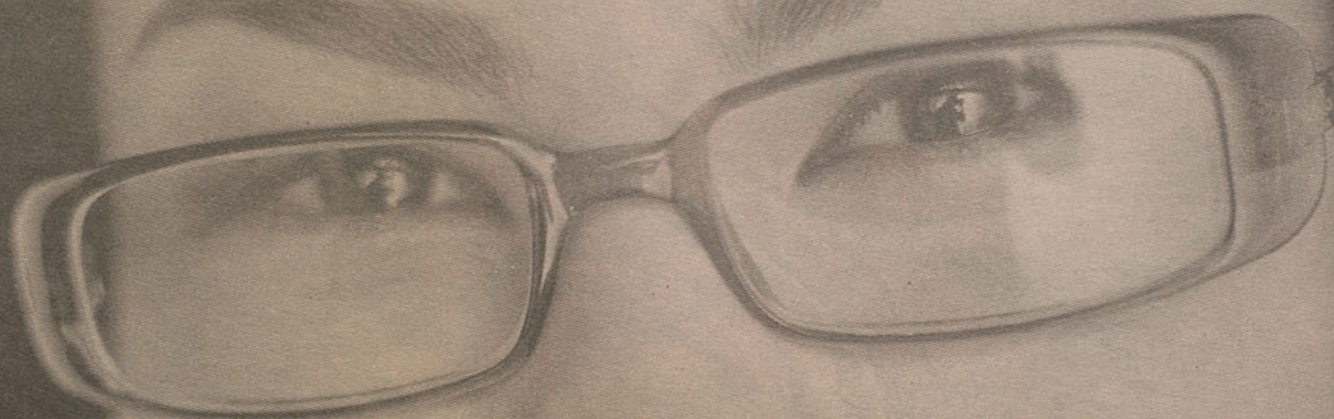


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Editorial Assistants

Mike Koschik • Ruth Reynolds

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Eve Silberman

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Photographers

Sally Bjork • John M. Galloway

Jodi Kozma • Carine Lutz • David Smith

Todd Spencer • Margaret White Teall

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Artists

Tim Athan • John Copley

Heather McWilliams

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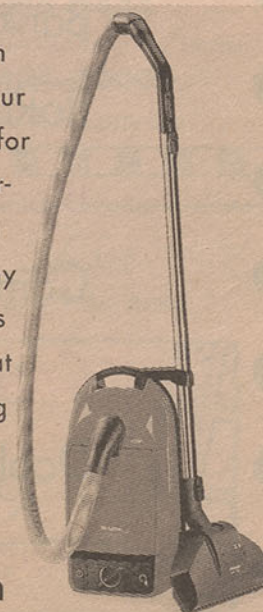


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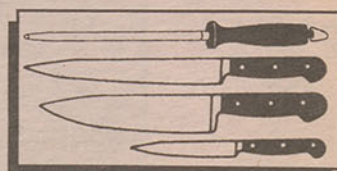
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Ann Arbor Observer

December 2002

vol. 27 • no. 4

Cover: 16 Hands on Main Street. Watercolor by Heather McWilliams for Bill Burgard's U-M School of Art and Design Illustration 219 class.

25 The Return of Tom Burnham *Lynn Waldsmith*

During the 1990s, investors sank \$12 million into his failed fast-food businesses. Now he's back with a franchise for the new millennium.



33 On the Couch *James Leonard*

A psychotherapy sampler.

41 The Coach as Mensch *Craig Ross*

In his first season, the U-M men's basketball team posted its worst record since 1962. This year won't be much better. So what's so great about Tommy Amaker?



47 Clash of the Elitists *Todd Spencer*

Ann Arbor versus San Francisco.

49 The Story of the Schwaben Halle *Grace Shackman*

In 1914 German Americans built a virtual palace of ethnic solidarity.



53 Holiday Guide 2002 *Laura McReynolds with Tony McReynolds*

Our seasonal scouting report from the retail front.

departments

11 Up Front

Ken Garber, John Hilton,
John Hinchey, Yma A. Johnson,
Elizabeth Méricas, Deborah Pohrt

21 Ann Arborites

U-M history prof Juan Cole
Eve Silberman



105 Restaurants

Gandy Dancer *Margaret Yang*
Jonathan's Family Restaurant
Kate Conner-Ruben

13 Inside Ann Arbor

Eve Silberman, Patty Branam,
Tim Athan

17 Calls & Letters

Charlie Brown

19 Crime Map

109 Marketplace Changes

Laura McReynolds
A new Barnes & Noble
• Road Runner replaces
Azure • Acme Mercantile
opens • Tabor Hill wine tast-
ing room opens • changes
at Briarwood • and more.

139 Back Page

I Spy Contest *Sally Bjork*
Fake Ad Update *Jay Forsner*

23 Around Town

Dashing through the snow,
by minivan *Sandor Slomovits*

—what's happening—

67 Events

John Hinchey & Laura Bartlett

Daily events in Ann Arbor during December, including reviews of local singer-songwriter Dick Siegel, the Huron Valley Harmonizers barber-shop chorus, jazz pianist D.D. Jackson, the Choral Union's Tom Sheets conducting Handel's *Messiah*

(at right), and blues singer Joce'lyn B and the Detroit Street Players.

101 Music at Nightspots

John Hinchey

140 Events at a Glance

John Hinchey



advertising sections

118 Personals, Classifieds,
& Service Advertisers

125 Real Estate Guide

Home Sales Map *Kevin Duke*

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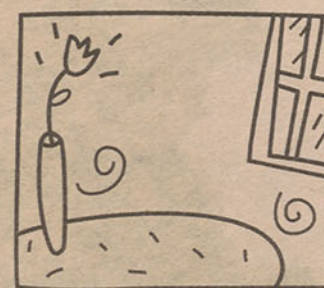
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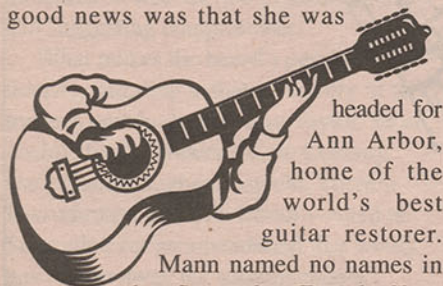
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Devoured: While Republicans rolled up wins across the country in November, the Ann Arbor GOP was

being eaten alive. Democrat John Hieftje actually improved on his mayoral landslide two years ago, winning 75 percent of the vote against Fourth Ward Republican Marcia Higgins. Worse, the party lost its final bastion, the Second Ward. The Second hadn't elected a Democrat to city council since 1986—until Joan Lowenstein swept every precinct against Republican Jeff Hauptman. The GOP's nightmare vindicates local Democrats' gradual shift toward the political center, a process that began in the 1980s and culminated in Hieftje's election two years ago. The mayor hasn't abandoned his party's traditional social and environmental agenda, but he's nestled it inside a larger commitment to frugal good government—the position formerly known as Republicanism. No wonder that after controlling the eleven-member council as recently as 1990, the GOP is now down to just two seats.

Guitar hero: When her tour bus was in an accident and her guitar shattered, singer Aimee Mann told Jay Leno, the only good news was that she was



headed for Ann Arbor, home of the world's best guitar restorer.

Mann named no names in her September *Tonight Show* appearance, but when we called Herb David, he wasn't complaining—he says Mann has been singing his praises around the country. "It was her favorite instrument, so she brought it to us and said, 'What can you do?'" David recalls. "We fixed it, and she said, 'Better than new,' and she's been talking about it ever since." David's not sure how Mann heard about him but says his name "floats around Nashville." Years ago, he repaired a Martin D18 that the Byrds' Clarence White had run over with his car. "It was like a crossword puzzle—he brought it in in a box," David recalls. They rushed the work so that White could record with the instrument the same week. Although White died in 1973, "the guitar is still around," David points out—"Tony Rice has it now."

High noon for a cancer treatment: On December 17, U-M oncologist Mark Kaminski finally gets his chance to win federal approval for Bexxar. Developed with U-M colleague Richard Wahl, the treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma created a flurry of excitement in 1996, complete with Kaminski's photo in *Time* magazine. But despite impressive results in test patients, the drug keeps hitting regulatory setbacks. "They've had a devil of a

UPFRONT



time getting through the FDA," says Seattle stock analyst Paul Latta, "but no one seems to be able

to figure out what the FDA doesn't like about it." (The agency doesn't comment on drug reviews.) There's a lot at stake, both for Kaminski—who has devoted his research career to Bexxar—and for the U-M, which patented the drug and stands to earn millions of dollars if it's successful. Given the FDA's mysterious hostility, it's anyone's guess whether Bexxar will finally get the nod midmonth.

Regulating the victim: What's worse than prostitutes posing as members of your profession? How about the police deciding who's allowed to practice it? In the wake of high-profile busts of local prostitution rings operating as massage parlors, the Ann Arbor Police Department asked the city attorney's office to draw up an ordinance to regulate the city's estimated 1,000 bodyworkers and massage therapists. The draft law would require them all to be certified by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. The problem, says holistic health practitioner Linda Diane Feldt, is that the draft defines "massage" so broadly that it would apply even to practitioners of alternative healing techniques such as reiki, shiatsu, and polarity therapy—none of which falls within the board's coverage area. Those practitioners would either have to get schooling unrelated to their work or practice illegally, says Feldt, who helped gather more than 1,000 signatures on a petition opposing the ordinance. Feldt calls the effort to regulate legitimate practitioners a "bizarre response" to the sex slavery and prostitution raids a year and half ago, and so far the city seems to agree: police chief Dan Oates recently e-mailed Feldt to say that he won't pursue the ordinance in its present form, while mayor John Hieftje told the Observer that he "wouldn't support anything that placed undue restriction on legitimate practitioners." Given the city's wealth of alternative therapies, Hieftje adds, "an ordinance that might work somewhere else probably won't work here."



Bucket drive: It's one of Ann Arbor's oldest fund-raisers, and possibly the most paradoxical. On December 6 and 7, a couple hundred panhandlers will swarm the city's shopping areas—and every one of them will be a U-M medical student. The "Galens" collect about \$75,000 a year, all of which goes to provide fun activities for young patients at Mott's Children's Hospital and other kids in need. "We might be a bit cold, but we'll be happy to be there," says organizer Kirsten Salmeen, who points out that the bucket drive offers a rare break from the exhausting grind of med school. "We believe what we do is hugely important," Salmeen says. "And furthermore, we don't get let out of school much!"



What does it cost? \$15—to feed and shelter a homeless animal for one day at the Humane Society of Huron Valley . . .

One hour—to walk three dogs as an animal shelter volunteer . . . Six to nine hours—monthly commitment to be a Big Brother or Big Sister, at HelpSource . . . \$300—to sponsor HelpSource's entire Big Brother/Big Sister winter carnival this month . . . \$25—to buy 100 informational booklets for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill . . . Two hours—to distribute NAMI booklets to schools, libraries, and hospitals . . . \$5—to sponsor one low-income teen for a weekend event at the Neutral Zone . . . \$500—to pay a Neutral Zone instructor to teach an entire one-semester class . . . \$25—to support one family for one night at Ronald McDonald House . . . \$175—to support that family for one week . . . \$30—to buy a homeless child a backpack containing notebooks, crayons, pencils, and other basic school supplies through the Education Project for Homeless Youth, at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District . . . \$10—to deliver five twelve-pound holiday turkeys through Food Gatherers.



A dome of their own: As the surrounding foliage fell away in November, it emerged from the trees between Plymouth and Broadway. Tall



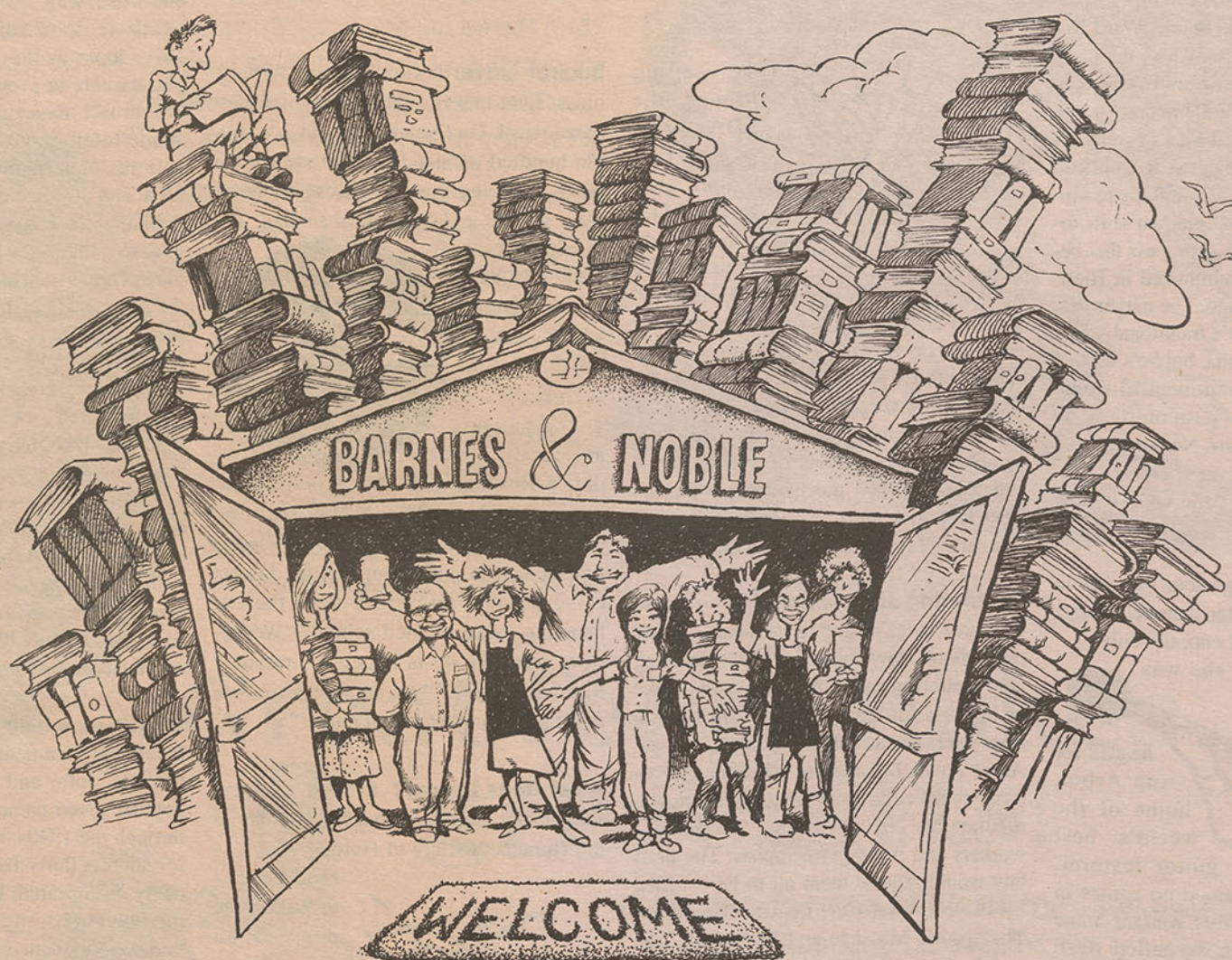
and white, with a corner tower topped by a geodesic dome, the structure on Jones Drive looks as if it might be a mosque, a planetarium, or even an avant-garde museum. In fact, the extraordinary building is a single-family home—one that melds the cultures of Iranian-born architect Sabha La'al and his Japanese artist wife, Tomoko. Sabha, a fit, forty-something U-M grad, gave us a tour, showing off the radiant heating system, solar collectors attached outside the dome, and two huge, tile-lined Japanese bathtubs. Abundant windows flood the house with light. The round kitchen and dining area are equipped with streamlined Swedish birch cabinets and granite countertops—Tomoko's choice for kneading bread. An ornate door salvaged from Angelo's restaurant during one of Sabha's renovations there leads into the master bedroom; three-year-old Aabi's room is decorated with painted stars, moons, and clouds, and ceramic tiles handmade by Tomoko. After four years of work, the La'als hope to move into their astonishing creation early in 2003.

What's in a name? In 1880, when the federal government began tracking birth records, John and Mary were the most popular given names. They stayed on top through the 1940s, remained in the top ten for another thirty-five years, and then suddenly disappeared. Last year, according to the Social Security Administration, John ranked fourteenth and Mary finished forty-ninth. Reviewing local birth records from January through September of this year, staff at Washtenaw County Vital Records came up with some interesting patterns of their own. On the boys' side, Jacob leads the list—and it's the current national favorite, too. Joshua is the county's runner-up (versus fourth nationwide), followed by

Ryan (fifteenth nationally), Zachary (sixteenth), and a tie between Ethan (seventeenth) and Nicholas (sixth). First place on the girls' side is a tie between Emily and Anne. Emily also topped the U.S. list, but Anne's strong finish is quite a surprise: nationally, the name dropped from 158th to 310th place between 1990 and 2001! The rest of the local girls' list stays much closer to the national pattern: in second place is Emma (thirteenth nationally), followed by Madison (second), Hannah (third), and Abigail (eighth). So Anne's showing appears to be a fluke—a tribute, perhaps, to a random cluster of aunt and grandmother Annes. ■



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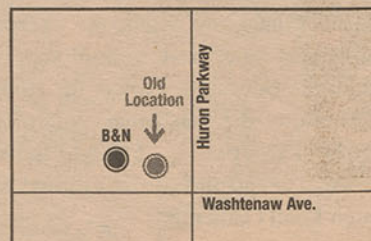
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INSIDE

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Role Reversal

The Ann Arbor Board of Education seems to want to do the superintendent's job—and she's all too willing to do theirs.

In late October school board members sat down to write out their priorities for deciding whether and how to fund a third comprehensive high school. They then e-mailed their lists to superintendent Rossi Ray-Taylor for her to sort through—and to get back to them with some direction.

The process surprised new trustee Glenn Nelson. "It seems to me that we have handed the administration parts of a job which should be done by board members," says Nelson, who was elected to the board in June. "My expectation was that the board members ourselves would have more dialogue about what we wanted and that we would be seeking the compromises ourselves rather than charging the administration with the job of listening to us and suggesting compromises."

What makes the board's passivity particularly puzzling is that a majority of the trustees openly distrust Ray-Taylor. Most visibly, five members—Kate Conway, Gary Gatien, Kathy Griswold, Theresa Han-Markey, and Bob Rorke—voted in September for an amendment that would have taken away the superintendent's power to negotiate contracts with her staff. Bill Browning, the board's most popular member, was so outraged at the usurpation of Ray-Taylor's authority that he quit and launched a recall drive. (Browning quickly abandoned the recall effort, and the

amendment itself never took effect, because the anti-Ray-Taylor forces forgot to pass the motion to which it was attached.)

The amendment was provoked by a dispute about whether Ray-Taylor's cabinet members should receive vehicle allowances or get the same amount of money in their salaries—an issue with zero financial implications for the district. In contrast, building a third major high school will cost taxpayers about \$77 million up front, plus another

Glenn Nelson, who was elected to the board in June, was surprised at the process. "It seems to me that we have handed the administration parts of a job which should be done by board members," he says.

\$3.5-\$5 million a year in operating costs. Yet instead of publicly debating the issue, trustees have been content to offer personal, often-contradictory comments on a series of administration proposals. Asked recently whether the board was making progress toward putting a millage on the ballot, president Theresa Han-Markey seemed to want to disassociate herself from the decision-making process altogether. "We're not the

ones to ask about that," she said tersely.

"You'd have to ask the administration."

School boards are supposed to make policy decisions, and superintendents are supposed to implement them. But the decision on the third high school is sure to anger plenty of voters, because financing it would require two different taxes—a bond millage to build it and a sinking fund to help pay its operating costs. Including projects at several other schools, the current millage proposal alone totals \$99 million. Leaving the initiative to the administration allows the board to avoid some of that heat.

It's an unfortunate pattern, says retired Ann Arbor school administrator Bob Moseley, but not an uncommon one. "People want the answers they want [from administrators], but they don't want to say what they want," he explains. But Moseley thinks it's unrealistic for the board to expect the superintendent to "come up with a policy they love. There's never going to be one that everyone likes."

Tensions between school boards and superintendents are rife, but this one is more bitter than any in recent history, say longtime Ann Arbor school watchers. Possible explanations abound, but the most obvious one is money. Under the state financing system passed in 1993, the amount the district can spend to operate its schools isn't even keeping up with inflation. And in view of Michigan's current fiscal crisis, notes former superintendent Scott Westerman, "the prospects for even a cost-of-living increase from the state aren't very good. It puts the board and superintendent in a very difficult position."

The legacy of the substitute teacher lawsuit—which cost the district the equivalent of 20 percent of its annual budget—doesn't help. Although no present trustees were involved in those decisions, they seem haunted by the fear of making a similar mistake. When a past trustee turned up at a meeting to criticize the board for attempting to micromanage the district, Kate Conway recalls, "I'm just watching her, thinking, 'You're one of the board members that's costing us thirty-two million dollars, and you're coming here to tell me that I shouldn't be asking questions?'"

Then there's the bizarre legacy of departed but hardly

=The Observer Survey=

This month we interviewed twenty students at Ann Arbor's two comprehensive high schools, ten from Pioneer and ten from Huron. When we asked them what makes a class good or bad, the teacher's personality was the runaway winner, followed by the subject's relevance to their own lives and the freedom to learn their own way. Where do they like to hang out after school? Their first choice was their friends' houses, followed by a four-way tie among their own homes, the movies, the mall, and the Neutral Zone.

B—average grade they give their education so far.

7.25—average hours per week spent doing homework.

Preps, jocks, geeks—the three most common social sets at their schools, as estimated by our respondents.

Jock, prep—our respondents' most common self-identifications. (Write-in votes included "beast," "leader," and "normal.")

Social stress—respondents' pick as the biggest problem facing high school students, beating out overcrowded schools and drug and alcohol use.

Teachers who demand too little—respondents' pick as the least important problem facing high school students.

25% think they would be happier attending a smaller high school.

35% think their parents would be willing to pay more taxes for a new high school.

40% think they would do better academically in a smaller high school.

40% would be willing to take fewer classes to help pay for a new high school.

70% agree with trustee Bob Rasmussen that Pioneer and Huron are the two best comprehensive high schools in the state.

forgotten administrator Deb Small, whose tumultuous relationship with the district ended in November when she agreed to resign in exchange for a \$300,000 settlement. Small was apparently a key figure in organizing opposition to Ray-Taylor—a particularly ironic role for the schools' PR woman.

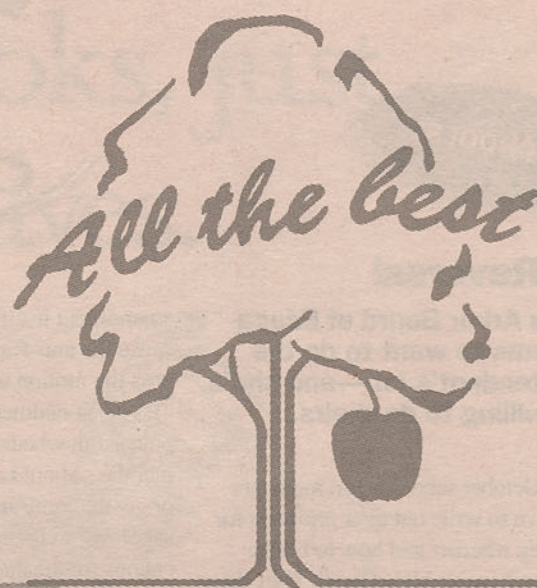
Small met with Theresa Han-Markey



Superintendent Rossi Ray-Taylor and board of education president Theresa Han-Markey. Board members criticize the superintendent's work—then turn to her to resolve their own differences.

J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

Points of Pride



Superintendent: Rossi Ray-Taylor, Ph.D.

3-PEAT FOR PIONEER

Pioneer High School has again received the Michigan Governor's Cup award for the highest number of students qualifying for Merit Awards on the state high school test. Pioneer has been the recipient each of the three years the Governor's cup has been awarded. In presenting the award to Pioneer Principal Henry Caudle, Governor Engler noted that Pioneer was a "three-peat" winner of the cup. He noted that in 2002, 374 Pioneer students earned the award, compared to 344 students the year before. He concluded by saying that students from Pioneer High School alone have earned nearly \$1 million in scholarship funds.

GOLDEN APPLE WINNERS

This year three elementary schools, Ann Arbor Open @ Mack, Carpenter, and Pittsfield received Golden Apple awards for their outstanding increase in performance on the MEAP. The award is given to schools whose increase in the percentage meeting state standards combined across reading, math, science, and writing equals or exceeds 60 percentage points com-

pared to their 1999-2000 performance. Schools must have at least 90% of their students participating in the test to qualify. Qualifying schools receive \$10,000 from the state. Statewide, 127 schools received Golden Apple awards. Ann Arbor Open, Carpenter, and Pittsfield join 2001 winners Logan and Haisley and the 2000 winner, Mitchell.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION CONTINUES

Ann Arbor schools continue to display a strong commitment to academic excellence. This year our high schools again boast impressive numbers of National Merit Scholars. Our Ann Arbor performance reflects an unusually high concentration of students recognized in a school district:

Semifinalists

Huron - 28 students
Pioneer - 19 students
Community - 7 students

Commended

Huron - 9 students
Pioneer - 20 students
Community - 6 students

Achievement

Huron - 3 students
Pioneer - 1 student

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and Gary Gatien even before they were elected to the board. Gatien says that Small criticized Ray-Taylor in their meeting, but he calls suggestions that she might have influenced his actions as a trustee "crap." Han-Markey says she doesn't remember what Small said to her. It seems unlikely, however, that Small had anything good to say about Ray-Taylor. Former trustee Brad Orr, who started out as a critic of the superintendent and evolved into a supporter, recently e-mailed board members to say that he spoke daily to Small for more than two and a half years.

"There is no doubt in my mind that [Small] desired to remove Rossi from her position," wrote former trustee Brad Orr. Kathy Griswold openly opposed the expansion, while Theresa Han-Markey says she felt she did her part just by showing up at public forums. *If the trustees continue to try to delegate their decision making to the superintendent—while they in turn try to take over parts of her job—they may sour the public's view so much that any proposal will be doomed before election day arrives. The members of this board may be haunted by the failures of past boards, but the more pertinent issue for them to ponder may be whether future boards will be haunted by theirs.*

A final complication may be lack of experience. None of the trustees opposed to Ray-Taylor has ever worked with another superintendent, and this is her first time in the top job. Ann Schimke's recent profile of Ray-Taylor in the *Ann Arbor News* portrayed her as a woman convinced she can solve even the toughest problems—and trying to find common ground among trustees who scarcely speak to one another certainly qualifies as tough. But by not

forcing the trustees to negotiate directly, Ray-Taylor is doing them no favor—because if they aren't personally committed to the high school decision, the schools may be headed toward yet another millage defeat.

The proposal for a third high school came to the fore only after voters overwhelmingly defeated a millage to expand Pioneer and Huron last spring. The expansion was opposed by the new-school forces, but the board majority's halfheartedness certainly didn't help. Administrators are not permitted to take an advocacy role in elections, so the burden of selling a millage falls on the board. But

Kathy Griswold openly opposed the expansion, while Theresa Han-Markey says she felt she did her part just by showing up at public forums.

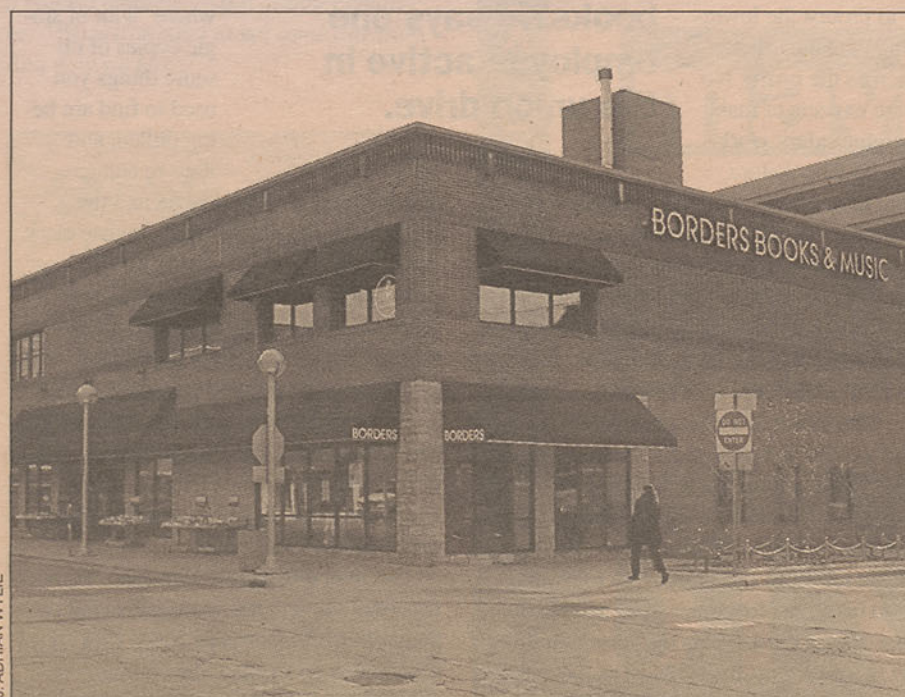
If the trustees continue to try to delegate their decision making to the superintendent—while they in turn try to take over parts of her job—they may sour the public's view so much that any proposal will be doomed before election day arrives. The members of this board may be haunted by the failures of past boards, but the more pertinent issue for them to ponder may be whether future boards will be haunted by theirs.

BUSINESS

Angst at Borders

Wounded pride is fueling a unionization drive at the book chain's original store.

It's official: the oldest Borders of them all is no longer a "flagship" of the almost-400-store chain. The flagship designation is "based on sales volume," Borders spokeswoman Anne Roman recently e-mailed the Observer, and "the downtown store does not meet the criteria at this time." Roman declined to release sales figures, but data obtained by the Observer suggest that sales were down about 15 percent in October from the same period last year.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

On December 6, employees at the downtown Borders will vote on whether to join the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

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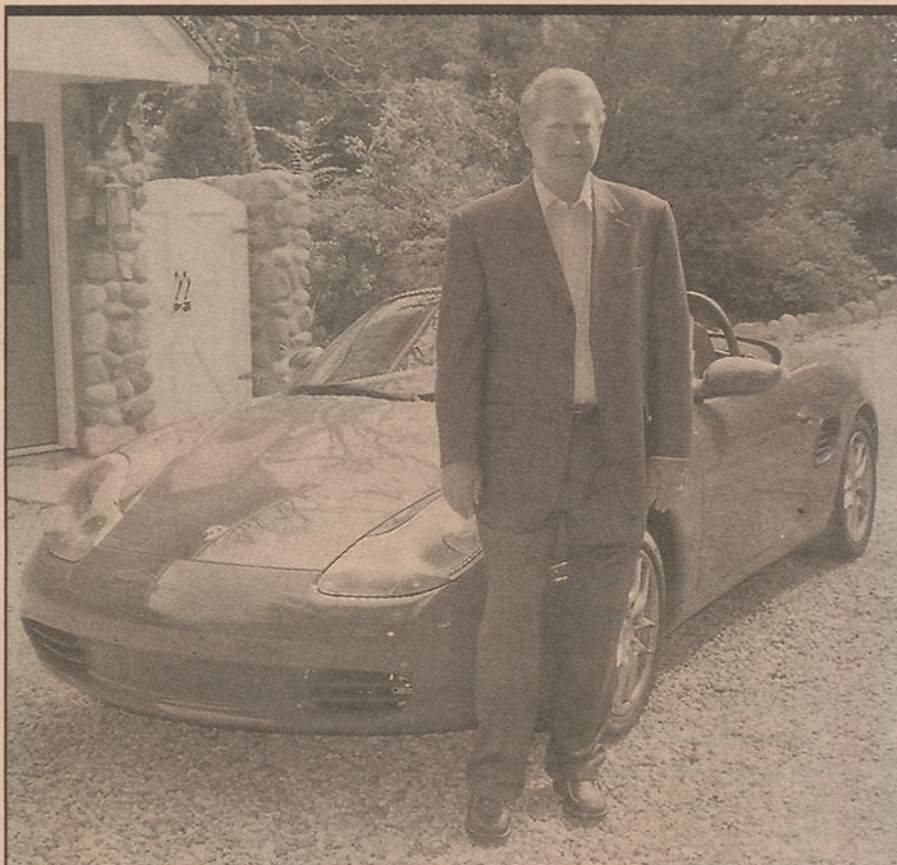
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INSIDE ANN ARBOR *continued*

LIFE IN ANN ARBOR

Tim Athan



The loss of status further demoralized a workforce already unhappy with cutbacks in staffing and inventory. Borders employees began thinking union. On December 6 they'll vote on whether to affiliate with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 876. Just one other Borders store, in Minneapolis, is currently unionized (also with UFCW).

Although the workers want to improve their salary and benefits package, their sense of wounded pride seems to be fueling the dispute. Former assistant manager Deb Day, who recently left the downtown store, writes that the drive is being undertaken "to protest the lowering of standards across the board. No one expects to make a huge salary working at a bookstore, but at one time, working at Borders store number one stood for something."

"Forgive us our hubris," another employee wrote in an Internet posting, "but our pride in working here, being the first, helped us to deny the fact that we are overqualified and underpaid."

The hiring of a new manager in September proved the catalyst for the union drive, but strong feelings had built up well before his arrival. As sales have declined, so has the staff—employees claim that the workforce fell from 106 employees to seventy-two between November 2001 and November 2002. (Roman puts the current number at "about eighty-five.") Most of the cuts were made through attrition, according to employees, who add that new hires were often part-timers, who don't get benefits.

Unhappy employees protest that the store's traditional high standards (set by the legendary first manager, Joe Gable) are being compromised. Workers lack adequate time to shelve and alphabetize books, they say, and new books are stacked up for days before being shelved. Equally distressing for many is the store's decline in inventory. "The common cry around the store is

"Where are the books?" says one employee

active in the union drive. Although no numbers are available, several Borders employees say that the academic sections are especially depleted. The cuts have also been felt in the music department, where "a lot of single copies of obscure things you used to find are being pulled, and they're being re-

placed by the Britney Spears and the Christina Aguilera," says ex-music clerk Vito Veasley.

Employees were further unnerved when the new, young manager, Keith Bearup, came on in early September—and promptly demoted Deb Day and another assistant manager to supervisor. Day quit, becoming one of eleven employees who have left since Bearup's arrival. Somewhere between good-bye lunches, Borders staff decided to unionize.

But in demoting the managers, Bearup was only implementing long delayed company policy. In February 2001, says spokeswoman Roman, the company decided to abolish all assistant manager positions. "We are now making Ann Arbor consistent with the rest of the stores," she

Many Borders employees are distressed at the decline in inventory. "The common cry around the store is 'Where are the books?'" says one employee active in the union drive.

says. As to the reduced inventory, Roman says, that is also in line with corporate policy. The store is using a new system that polls customers to determine what books to stock, she says. Another Borders manager, noting that special orders can now be filled more rapidly, says that competition from the Internet has forced the chain to rethink how it does business.

"They have the best of intentions," says a sympathizer who worked for years in the downtown Borders. **"But staffing level and inventory—the union's not going to be able to do anything about that."**

For their part, Borders employees hope that the move to unionize will force management locally to rethink its priorities. That isn't likely, however. For one thing, UFCW does not inspire confidence: in recent years two top-level union employees were indicted, one for taking a bribe, the other for stealing. For another, unions have little leverage on policy issues.

"They have the best of intentions," says a sympathizer who worked for years in the downtown Borders. "But staffing level and inventory—the union's not going to be able to do anything about that."

Whatever its long-term prospects, the unionization drive has at least brightened the spirits of the downcast store loyalists. They were pleased that since news about the vote has spread, store management has solicitously sought them out. "We're tired of them treating us so poorly after we've devoted our lives to this store," says one union supporter, who asked to remain anonymous. "We feel that unionizing is the only way we can balance the power, even a modest amount." Adds another employee, "We just wanted to get some attention. And now we have."

☎ Calls & ✉ Letters

Charlie Brown

Gary Murphy (November's Ann Arborite) wrote to say that Charlie Brown, whom we described as his "colleague," should have been more specifically identified as his partner and co-owner of Shady Tree Services. Murphy also wanted to share credit for his inventive recycling, noting that "whatever collecting and work I have done was and is in collaboration with my friends, teachers, and mentors."

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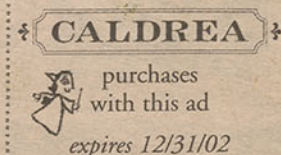
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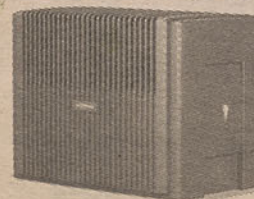
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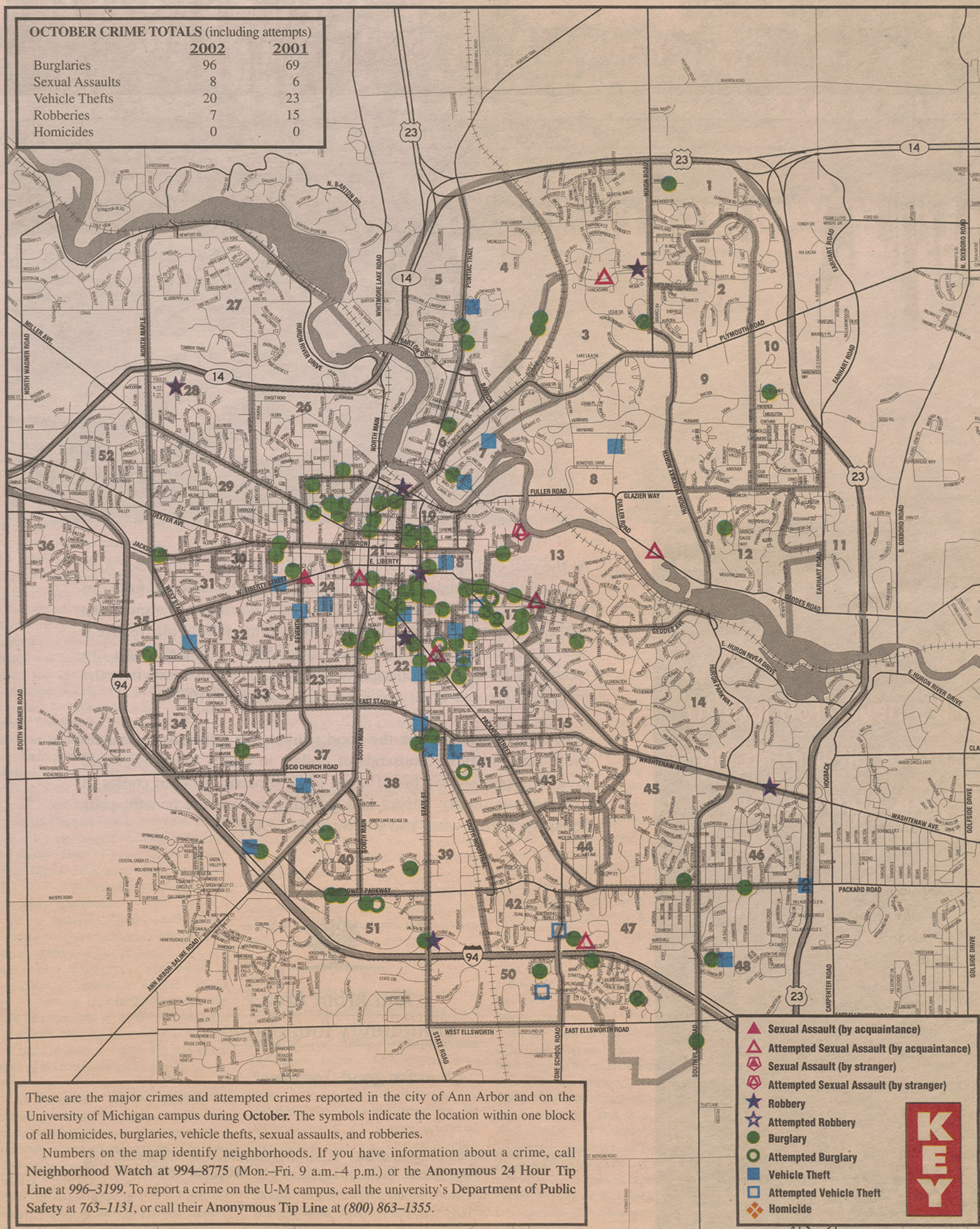
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CRIME MAP

OCTOBER CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2002	2001
Burglaries	96	69
Sexual Assaults	8	6
Vehicle Thefts	20	23
Robberies	7	15
Homicides	0	0





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Juan Cole

The perils of a "public intellectual"

In the aftermath of September 11, U-M history professor Juan Cole decided he wanted to share his scholarly expertise in Islamic studies with a larger audience. He began contributing to on-line policy forums and started a daily web log (www.juancole.com), where he shares news items he reads from Arab on-line sources and publishes his own observations on everything from the India-Pakistan conflict to news coverage of the Middle East. "I wish more academics were willing to range beyond their narrow specializations," he wrote in one posting. "After all, few politicians or policy makers of the sort who actually decide on U.S./Saudi relations know Arabic or have lived in the Middle East." Cole does—and he has.

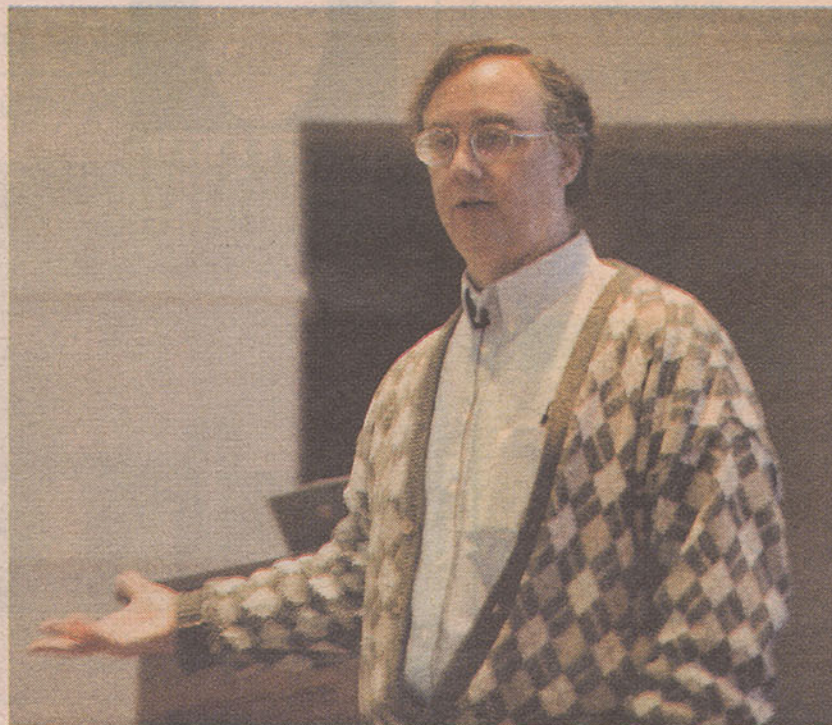
This fall Cole discovered the downside to becoming what he calls a "public intellectual": his name appeared on a right-wing website as someone to be "watched" for bias against Israel. Cole and the other seven professors on the list protested that www.campuswatch.org, run by the Philadelphia-based Middle East Forum, was using McCarthyite tactics to stigmatize and intimidate them. Cole was particularly upset, he says, that Campus Watch was "calling on my students to spy on me and send responses to them."

Campus Watch's file on Cole included a posting he wrote calling for the resignation of Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon, maintaining that Sharon's "iron-fist policies have contributed significantly to the Middle East quagmire." Because of the website, Cole received a deluge of angry e-mail, including a death threat. But he argues that Campus Watch didn't fairly represent his views—for instance, it ignored the opinion piece he wrote for the *Chronicle of Higher Education* criticizing the decisions of some European scholars to boycott Israeli academics.

In his writings on Arab-Israeli matters, Cole says, "I have genuinely tried to be as evenhanded and fair minded as I know how to be. I've never been a polemicist."

Cole, fifty, appears an unlikely subject for controversy. He's medium height, with dark hair that rises up in defiant little tufts. He dresses casually for class, and he rides his bike around campus. He has spent most of his life as a curious student of other cultures.

As a scholar, Cole has covered "an amazing amount of ground," says colleague Michael Bonner. Cole has written four books and edited several others on topics ranging from the social history of modern Egypt to the development of Shiite Islam. He is also the editor of the *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, where, he notes, articles are contributed by



MARGARET WHITE TEALL

both Israelis and Palestinians: "The *Journal* is one place where pretty much everybody in the Middle East is collaborating."

Since September 11, enrollment in Cole's U-M course on Mideast conflict in the twentieth century has doubled. "I've never had shouting matches in my class," he says. "But I have had occasionally intemperate things said. If I intervene to defuse the situation, it usually does get defused."

Since September 11, enrollment in Cole's U-M course on Mideast conflict in the twentieth century has doubled.

"I had one student who stood up and reviewed all the injustices that he perceived had been done to the Palestinians, and at the end of this, he said, 'Given that this is the case, why shouldn't there be bombings?'"

"I was very alarmed at this statement. I said, 'Because they create a cycle of violence from which it becomes impossible to escape. Violence doesn't solve this.'"

Cole's father was a military man who traveled the world. He was born "John Cole," but when he was a baby, the family's Latina landlady in Albuquerque dubbed him "Juanito." Although he has no Hispanic heritage, the nickname "Juan" stuck.

When Cole was in his early teens, his family moved to a U.S. base in Eritrea, then part of Ethiopia. The experience piqued Cole's interest in Islam. "It was just an awareness on my part as a teenager that there was this whole other civilization out there, about which I knew very little," he reflects.

At Northwestern University Cole embraced the Baha'i faith, attracted by its message of universal brotherhood. (Today, he considers himself an "independent" in religion.) After graduation Cole studied in Lebanon. He fled to Jordan after the Lebanese civil war broke out in 1975, where he studied Arabic and pursued his particular interest in Shiism, a form of Islam practiced by the majority of people in Iran and Iraq. (Conflicts between Shiite and Sunni Muslims help keep the cauldron of Mideast politics boiling.) Returning from the Middle East, he earned a Ph.D. in Islamic studies at UCLA. He met his wife, Shahin Malik, while doing research in Lahore, Pakistan, and they were married in 1982. The couple and their fifteen-year-old son, Arman, live in northeast Ann Arbor.

Although most of Cole's historical research focuses on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the twenty-first consumes a great deal of his time these days. On the wisdom of attacking Iraq, Cole is conflicted—worried about the consequences, but willing to entertain the idea under certain circumstances. "There is a difference between going to war with Iraq because Donald Rumsfeld doesn't like the looks of Saddam Hussein and going to war with Iraq because Hussein has thumbed his nose at the Security Council," he wrote recently. He's currently doing research on the history of al-Qaeda and other militant Islamic groups.

In the wake of the Campus Watch attack, Cole says, his colleagues and students have lined up behind him. And he's putting the experience in perspective. Though he "used to be quite sensitive" about offending anyone, Cole says, he's become more thick skinned over the last few years.

Besides, there are positive aspects to being a public intellectual. At most, he says, his academic monographs sell 1,000 copies. In contrast, he points out, about sixty visitors check out his website every day.

—Eve Silberman



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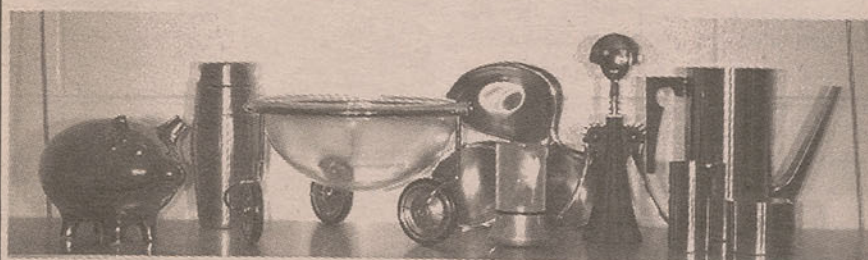
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AROUND TOWN

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Dashing through the snow, by minivan



JODI KOZMA

A friend writes:

It is a few nights before Christmas. Well fortified with hot cider and popcorn, six of us, two moms, two dads, and two kids, have piled into our minivan to visit Christmas light displays. A fresh snowfall has blanketed the town, and many of the side streets near our home on the west side have not yet been plowed. Our minivan trails a tall, white plume, and we begin singing "Jingle Bells." Exuberant shouts of "Wow!" and "Look over there!" and soft, almost reverent oohs and aahs punctuate the rowdy, raucous choruses as we pass brightly trimmed houses, trees, and shrubs, the glimmering lights reflected and amplified by the sparkling snow.

After several repetitions of the traditional lyrics, we begin to improvise.

*Dashing through the snow
In a red Ford minivan,
Down the streets we go
Of Ann Arbor, Michigan,
Exclaiming ooh and aah
At decorations bright.
What fun it is to ride and sing
A touring song tonight.*

We drive across town to pay homage to the Disneyesque lighted figures at 1908 Austin and the playful, zany decorations festooning a few houses on Jewett. We tour up and down streets with forgotten names and finally meander along Main Street, enjoying the simple elegance of the twinkling white lights in the trees. The hour has grown suddenly late, it's past the girls' bedtime, and a new song comes from the back seat, "Are we done yet?"

We head up Miller, turn on Linda Vista, and turn again on Linwood. We come upon a small group of people gathered under the bright street lamp at the corner of Wesley and Linwood. It's a brass sextet: three trumpets, two trombones, and one French horn, four men and two women.

They are all wearing ski hats and gloves, although one of the trombone players has his coat open, with a bright red Hawaiian shirt peeking out.

They are taking a break and chatting with their small audience. A few kids are playing in the meager snowbanks. We stop and roll down our window. The players lift their instruments and launch into "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen." The bright instruments sparkle and gleam, reflecting the glow of the street lamp, providing their own light show to accompany the rich harmonies resounding in the otherwise silent streets. Tidings of joy, indeed. We cheer and applaud enthusiastically. Encouraged, they continue with "Jingle Bells" and "Deck the Halls." One of the trumpet players steps in place occasionally, perhaps simply in an effort to keep warm, possibly out of force of habit from old marching band training.

We ask whether they play in the neighborhood every year. Yes, it turns out, and also on Main Street during Midnight Madness. "It's still legal," adds the Hawaiian-shirted trombonist.

We had planned to stay for only one song, but our kids' plaintive refrain is now "Can we stay for one more?" We listen to spirited versions of "Joy to the World" and "O Tannenbaum" and a gorgeous "Silent Night" before the musicians (who informally refer to themselves as the Wildwood Park Brass Ensemble) get ready to move to another corner.

"Would you come to our street sometime?" we ask. There is a resounding "Sure!" to which the Hawaiian-shirted trombonist adds, "If someone will invite us in for eats and drinks, we'll play until we're served with a restraining order." We ask for a phone number, and their leader, Brian Koepele, gives us his.

This year, we call early (good thing, too, as we find them already almost all booked up) and invite them to our corner to add a new element to our holiday season tradition.

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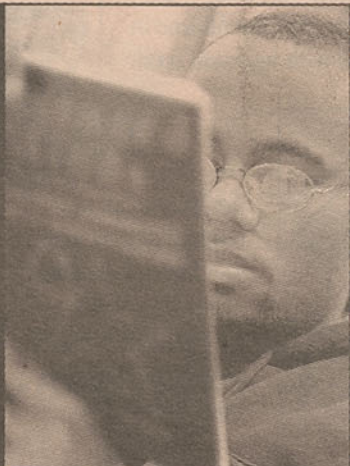
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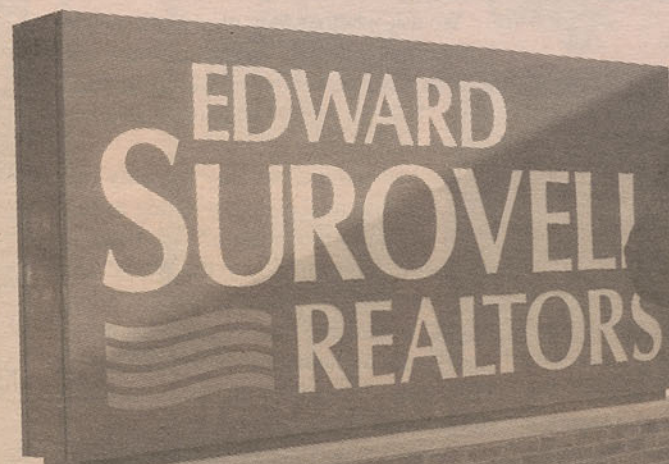
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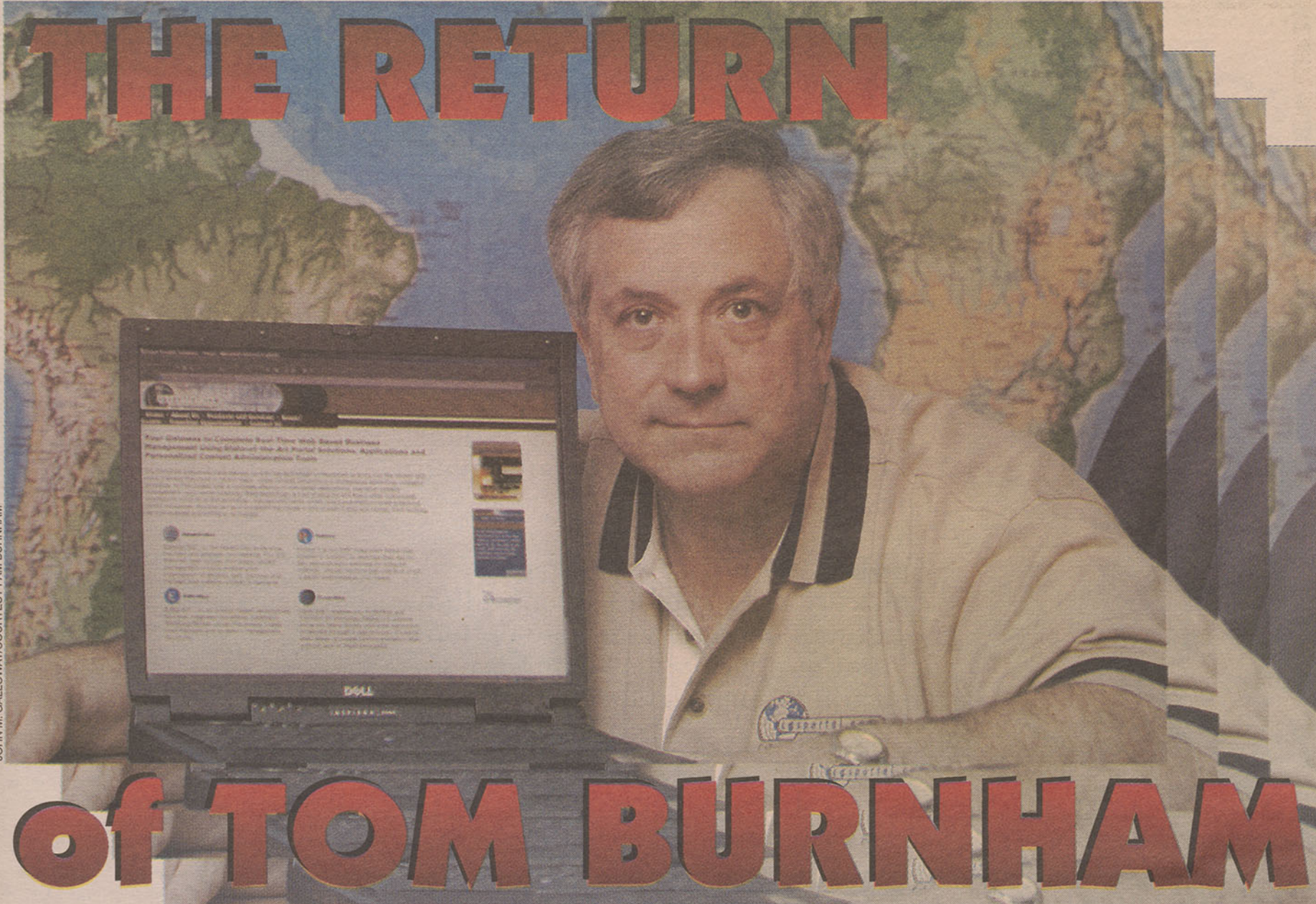
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by Lynn Waldsmith

In the photos that fill up the walls of his Ann Arbor office, Tom Burnham is smiling. Dressed in a dark suit, the Burnham of the 1980s is strikingly handsome. There he is with Ronald Reagan. In another photo, he is shaking hands with the elder George Bush. In yet another, Ollie North is chatting with a confident Burnham, the Ann Arbor attorney whose reputation for flamboyance and free-spending ways is the stuff of legend.

The photos contrast sharply with the way Burnham appears today. At age fifty-five, his belly swells against a snug-fitting golf shirt that bears the logo "Cyber Growth Solutions." Sitting at a large conference table with a world map in the background, Burnham is visibly tired. His hair is mostly gray now. And while he's still the same fast-talking promoter that he always was, you might suspect he'd suffered a stroke—he talks out of the side of his mouth, and his right eye keeps blinking.

It's Bell's palsy, he explains. Bell's palsy is a form of facial paralysis resulting from damage to the seventh cranial nerve. The prognosis for Bell's palsy is generally very good, but in some cases the symptoms may never completely disappear.

During the 1990s, investors sank \$12 million into his failed fast-food businesses. Now he's back with a franchise for the new millennium.

Burnham says he's been plagued with the affliction for the past five years, although his condition has improved.

"We got a severe case of Bell's palsy," Burnham says. "We couldn't look out of one eye. We couldn't hear out of one ear. We couldn't breathe out of one side of our nose. And we couldn't talk, we couldn't move half of our mouth. And that went on for a year."

Burnham, who thinks stress and commuting to London for three years caused or at least contributed to the problem, compulsively refers to himself as "we."

"I always use the 'we,'" he says when pressed about the habit. "I'm a team guy. There's no such thing as I."

Tom Burnham is back. Not that he ever really left. But he essentially dropped out of sight in Ann Arbor nearly ten years ago, after collecting more than \$1 million in salary and legal fees from the struggling Chinese fast-food home-delivery franchise known as Ho-Lee-Chow. Burnham spent the next several years launching a string of unsuccessful franchises in Florida and Europe. Now the lawyer-entrepreneur, who

has homes and offices in Ann Arbor and Florida, has settled on the Internet as the next place to seek a profit.

Cyber Growth Solutions (CGS), with headquarters in Ann Arbor, is a start-up company that Burnham is peddling as a franchise business. The idea is to create CGS franchises that will sell website development services and e-commerce programs to small and medium-size businesses.

"It's all brand new. It's all embryonic. It's all cool," he says in his typical rapid-fire manner. "The stuff is neat. The products are neat. The theory's neat. And if we can keep a steady hand on the tiller, it should be successful."

But keeping a steady hand on the tiller has clearly been a problem for Burnham in the past. Two of the most glaring examples are his Ann Arbor law firm and Ho-Lee-Chow. Burnham, Connolly, Oesterle and Henry went bankrupt in 1988, just sixteen months after it was founded. At the time it was the second-largest law partnership bankruptcy in U.S. history, with over \$8 million in liabilities and only a little over \$1 million in assets. Ho-Lee-Chow, a com-

pany Burnham founded with his wife, Pam, and several ex-Domino's employees, burned through more than \$7 million before folding in 1993, less than three years after it opened. But Burnham brushes aside criticism of his managerial skills.

"Obviously we've had a couple of things not work out the way we wanted, but we paid a price for that. And that law firm went down way back, fourteen years ago. I paid hundreds of thousands of dollars, and I'm still paying two to three hundred thousand more on all of that. . . . At the end of the day, we covered it all. And I covered it all. Everybody else ran for cover. And I sat there and took care of things. And we're quite proud of that."

Some people who have invested in Burnham's projects judge him more harshly. "It's real peculiar how he runs his businesses," says Brian Hammer, a former student of Burnham's at the University of Dallas. "It's almost as if he wants them to intentionally fail. I think he makes money getting investments. I don't think he makes money selling anything. . . . It would be like if I came to you and said I

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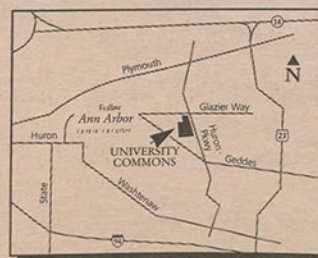
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TOM BURNHAM *continued*

wanted to start a magazine and I need five million dollars, and I start the magazine for one million, and whoops, the magazine didn't work, thank you, and I walk with four million dollars. That's my interpretation. His attitude is 'It's business. We invested. We lost. And we all learned.' But I think he walks away with a ton of money."

Actually, there's no evidence to support this kind of *Producers* scenario. At Ho-Lee-Chow, Burnham compensated himself lavishly, but far from having money left over, the company was more than \$1 million in debt by the time disgruntled investors finally removed him as president. It's easy to see why Hammer is suspicious, however: he's one of a group of University of Dallas students who lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in yet another disastrous Burnham franchise venture.

Michael H. Seid is founder and managing director of the franchise advisory firm Michael H. Seid & Associates. He has more than twenty years' experience as a senior operations and financial executive and a consultant for franchise, retail, restaurant, and service companies.

"There's nothing positive I can say about Tom Burnham," Seid says. Asked whether he's surprised that Burnham is launching another franchise venture, Seid, coauthor of the book *Franchising for Dummies*, responds, "Probably no more than if the chief executive of Tyco wanted to start another public company."

While Burnham has a long list of critics, he does have supporters. Anesthesiologist Michael Hicks, another former Dallas student and a major shareholder in Burnham's parent franchise development company, says he admires Burnham.

"Whether you like Burnham or not, you've got to give the guy credit for at least sticking in there," Hicks says. "Many people just fold their hands and leave. . . . I think he's doing the best he can do. And at this point I think he's got a couple of products that have a lot of potential."

Burnham, whose father was in the air force, grew up all over the world. He earned a B.B.A., an M.B.A., and a law degree from the U-M. As a lawyer and executive at Domino's Pizza International, he helped the company expand overseas. His bio on the CGS website (cgsportal.com) points out that during his six-year tenure at Domino's, the company grew from about 800 stores to over 5,000 stores worldwide, making it sound as though he's taking credit for that tremendous growth. But only a fraction of those stores were in Domino's international division—and for most of that six-year period, Burnham functioned as an outside attorney. (Burnham denies any intention to mislead; he attributes the website's wording to public relations people.)

After the law firm and Ho-Lee-Chow failures, Burnham became president and director of Clucker's International Franchise Corporation in Miami. Burnham says he expanded the rotisserie-chicken

chain from three stores to twenty, and in July 1994 *USA Today* selected Clucker's as Nasdaq's hottest stock, after it tripled in price. The same year, Clucker's sold out to another chicken chain, Kenny Rogers Roasters. Kenny Rogers is still in business, with more than 100 locations worldwide.

In 1995 Burnham began South Beach Concepts in Florida, a parent company with a variety of fast-food subsidiaries. The initial venture was South Beach Cafes, a chain of bagel-and-fruit-juice stands. More brands were soon added, including Pizza World Gourmet Pizza—an existing chain of a dozen or so stores—and Cisco & Pancho, a Mexican food concept. To finance this nas-

cent empire, Burnham established South Beach Concepts PLC in London. In 1996 and 1997 South Beach's British arm raised more than \$4 million on two new small-cap stock exchanges and opened six company-owned restaurants there.

In 1998 the company announced the closing of its six London restaurants. At the same time, many of the dozen Pizza World franchisees in the U.S. were withholding royalties, claiming a lack of support and of promised funds. Today, none of the U.S. food franchises that were part of South Beach Concepts is open.

"Visionarywise, we're pretty good, and that's stayed that way," Burnham says in response to questions about his track record. "We just seem to have a sense for what's not happened yet. As far as the management goes, there's certain elements of management that we're quite good at and certain ones we're not. And one of the things we've learned over the years is the parts that we're not. But today, we've got other people doing the parts of management that we're not good at."

During the launch of South Beach Concepts, Burnham managed to get himself into yet another mess of a different sort. In the early 1990s he became a part-time adjunct professor at the University of Dallas business school, where he taught franchising and entrepreneurial classes to executive M.B.A. students.

In December 1998, while his London operation was falling apart, Burnham taught a two-week intensive course in Dallas, using South Beach as the case study. Burnham told his students that the company would likely make its initial public offering in the United States in February at \$3 a share. He shared a business plan pre-

dicting that the number of restaurants would increase from twenty-seven to seventy-five in two years, and that corporate revenue would grow from \$1.6 million to \$2.5 million during the same period.

Most of Burnham's eight students were established businesspeople working on mid-career M.B.A.'s. Impressed with his sales pitch, five students put up nearly \$650,000

to buy shares and franchising rights in South Beach Concepts.

In the real world, though, there were never more than a handful of restaurants—and to judge by Burnham's constant search for capital, those were losing money. Burnham never told the class about the failure of his law firm or Ho-Lee-Chow. Students say they were never told about the problems with

the London restaurants or the angry Pizza World franchisees either.

South Beach Concepts never did have a U.S. IPO. The restaurants have all closed. Left with virtually worthless stock, most of Burnham's students feel duped.

"Most of the information was valuable. I don't have a criticism of the course," says Hammer, who invested \$5,000. "My criticism is he took money from students about course material he was teaching. It's a conflict of interest."

Nicholas Hallack, fifty-three, told the *Wall Street Journal* he was "robbed" of \$130,000 of his retirement fund—the amount he invested in South Beach shares. "It took me ten years to accumulate that money," he said. Hallack declined to talk to the *Observer*, explaining that he is currently involved in an arbitration to which Burnham is also a party.

Michael Hicks, who was also in the class, is more forgiving. He says he put close to \$500,000 into South Beach Concepts and a failed Pizza World franchise. Though he has never made a dime, Hicks says he invested because he was "intrigued by what Burnham was doing," and he insists he was not misled.

"I could understand where people could make the argument that it is a conflict [of interest]," Hicks says. "In some circumstances that could definitely be true. But I personally did not feel I was taken advantage of. I was forty years old. And all the other students too who invested were in their late thirties and early forties, and at some point in your life you need to take responsibility. It's not like I was thirteen and had a teacher leading me astray."

He admits, however, that whether he made a good investment is a different issue altogether.

"Clearly there's been no return on the investment to this point," Hicks says. "But

Asked whether he's surprised that Burnham is launching another franchise venture, Michael Seid, coauthor of the book *Franchising for Dummies*, responds, "Probably no more than if the chief executive of Tyco wanted to start another public company."



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TOM BURNHAM continued

there have been many other things that have not done well as investments in the last couple of years. Whether this one's better or worse than most—that remains to be seen."

Like Hicks, Burnham points out that most students in the class were middle- and senior-level managers who were capable of making their own decisions. His dean at the University of Dallas initially defended his conduct. After the *Wall Street Journal* story ran, though, Burnham was suspended with pay, and he has since left the school.

Burnham still denies that there was any conflict of interest in recruiting his students as investors.

"Hell, no," he declares. "It's all bullshit if you ask me. . . . This was a Catholic school. At the end of the day, it was never going to allow itself to be a Stanford. I'm not the only one gone. Anybody who was trying to push the envelope and make things happen is gone. It wasn't the right culture for it."

After the embarrassing publicity, the University of Dallas adopted a strong conflict-of-interest policy—but it came too late to help Burnham's students. Hammer says that he and some of the others were appalled at the lack of ambience at South Beach Cafes and tried to persuade Burnham to "clean them up." Hammer says they reminded him of Dairy Queens.

"Their menus were held up with fishing line," Hammer recalls. "There was absolutely no character to it. I would think someone in the business would understand more about restaurants than that."

Hammer also says South Beach paid him only a small fraction of the money he was supposed to get for designing a website for the company. Burnham contends he didn't pay the full amount because the work was substandard and never used, which Hammer denies.

"If his intentions were good, he would return phone calls," Hammer says. "I would call him and his phones were disconnected. He'd say, 'Yeah, we have a problem with the phones.' He's just evasive. I don't want to really sling mud. But . . . there's too much of a pattern."

During the 1990s Burnham's investors poured \$12 million into his failed fast-food franchises. In 2000, he says, he decided to get out of the food business, which he says is plagued by high staff turnover and employee theft. More important, he says, by the late 1990s fast-food franchising was simply the wrong business to be in.

"A whole ton of franchise systems in the food industry have either retrenched considerably or gone out of business altogether," he says. "It's a tough world to be in. And if there are better people out there who can survive in it, then my hat's off to them."

Burnham hasn't given up on selling franchises, though—he's just shifted to new kinds of businesses. He says he and the oth-

er directors of South Beach Concepts "did a whole lot of fiddlin' and diddlin'" and came up with a plan to offer personal and business services to small and medium-size firms. To reflect the change, they renamed the company Global Franchise Concepts.

GFC's website (globalfranchiseconcepts.com) lists three franchise subsidiaries, but Cyber Growth Solutions is the only one that's currently active. Established in October 2001, it promises to integrate the "high touch" of franchising with the "high tech" of the Internet.

Burnham defends the company's concept hopping.

"We haven't really hopped," he insists. "The life of the system changed. Clucker's, for instance, became quite a hot stock and got

merged. That was our purpose. Ho-Lee-Chow was cool, and so was Chop Shop, our competitor, but it just didn't work." (His competitor's real name was Chop Chop.)

According to Burnham, Global Franchise Concepts has about twenty-five employees and about 450 shareholders.

"We're still here. All the same shareholders," he says. "We did what was right. We moved to business services and franchises that were going to work in the future."

Burnham admits he's made mistakes in his career and claims he's wiser and humbler because of them. As for his history of spending money like there's no tomorrow, he just chalks it up to the "greed is good" atmosphere of the high-flying 1980s. Of course things went to his head, he says. He was making money hand over fist, and he was a player in the Republican Party.

"What the hell," he says. "I mean, I'm a little dude from Ann Arbor here, and when Reagan decides to throw his one last five-million-dollar bash, I'm the finance chairman. This kid from Ann Arbor? Who's in his thirties or whatever he was? . . . The eighties were something. And I think we handled it pretty well, but we didn't handle it perfectly."

The biggest difference between then and now, he emphasizes, is that he's not a hired hand any more. The old days were about other people's money. Now it's about his own money, he says. He and his wife, Pam, who have two grown children, still have their homes in Ann Arbor and Florida, but they've sold their big cottage on Lake St. Clair, their time-share in Beaver Creek, Colorado, and their yacht. Burnham says they've poured money from those assets into Global Franchise Concepts.

"So the difference is that we have liquidated a lot of the toys of the eighties and

used all the proceeds—and you're talking one point five million dollars here—for these companies," he points out. "And so it's not just other people doing stuff and I'm the hired gun leader anymore. Now I'm on the table right there with everybody else at a higher level than almost anybody else."

Burnham says that after one physician investor, he himself is the second-biggest investor in the company. He also insists his past business failures have not hindered efforts to secure investors.

"We're an entrepreneur," he says. "We're a tough Marine entrepreneur." (Though he loves military metaphors, Burnham never actually served.) "We're still here. We got through the Bell's palsy. We've got

ten through all the problems. We're still standing. And that's what people want. People want survivors and people who are going to be able to get through the problems, live through the problems, know how to negotiate the problems, and who have already made their mistakes."


After the embarrassing publicity, the University of Dallas adopted a strong conflict-of-interest policy—but it came too late to help Burnham's students, who had invested more than \$650,000 in South Beach Concepts.

Cyper Growth Solutions sells website development services and e-commerce programs to small and medium-size companies. Clients pay an initial setup fee of \$1,000 to \$3,000, depending on the applications they want on their sites. CGS also charges a monthly subscription fee of \$175 to \$750 to operate and maintain customers' sites.

The beauty of this franchise, says Burnham, is that you don't need to be a geek to sell Internet services; you just need good sales skills. Theoretically, a franchisee doesn't have to know anything about computers, he explains, because orders for websites are fulfilled by the CGS tech team in Bradenton, Florida. Burnham refers to the team and the facility as "the kitchen." He likens the situation to owning a Domino's store anywhere in the United States but having all the pizzas made at Domino's headquarters.

"We make the pizzas," he says. "We do the high tech, they [franchisees] do the high touch. However, if they happen to be good at all that [website development], that makes them even better because they're able to understand the business logic, what someone needs."

Franchisees pay about \$30,000 for a base territory and as much as \$65,000 for rights to sell CGS's services nationally and worldwide. CGS also charges franchisees a management fee of 20 percent of their



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TOM BURNHAM *continued*

gross revenues, plus another 3 percent for advertising and marketing. All you need to get started, he says—other than money, of course—is a computer, a digital camera, a modem, and a “couple other little things.” Burnham says the cost is not prohibitive in comparison with some brick-and-mortar franchises that require investments of \$100,000 to \$500,000.

But at least with such investments franchisees have assets of bricks and mortar. What assets does one gain by buying a franchise that's essentially built on cyberspace?

“This franchise is about cash flow,” he says. “This is a cash flow franchise. They [franchisees] look at what they've got in, what they can make, and they make their own determination as to what that looks like.”

Burnham has managed to attract considerable attention to Cyber Growth Solutions. He told the Tampa Bay *Business Journal* that when the company was introduced at an exposition this past spring, it received about 300 inquiries from prospective franchisees. He told another publication in August that the company will graduate its first class of between twenty and

fifty franchisees this year. By October, however, his projections were more guarded: he told the Observer that CGS will have about ten franchisees in a year.

The current reality is even more modest: although Burnham told the Observer that three CGS locations are currently in operation, the only one we could locate on the Internet was in Bradenton, Florida—the site of the company “kitchen.”

“You either love Burnham or you hate him,” says Hicks. “Obviously, in retrospect, if I'd known what I was getting into, I probably wouldn't have done it [invested in Burnham's company]. . . . As I said before, we all have faults, but I will give him a lot of credit for at least trying to make this thing work.”

Others see little reason to expect Burnham's performance to improve now.

“There's little positive in Tom's career since Domino's where I've seen success in what he's done,” says franchising expert Seid. “The thing people have to be careful about is that the people behind the franchise have to have a track record of success and ethical behavior. Saying that, given the lack of success of some prior franchises . . . people have to question what they're doing. This may be the best franchise since sliced bread, but people have to look at past history.”

Why would clients pick CGS when they can simply hire a local web development company? Burnham says his franchisees will offer more than just website creation—“portal” systems, for example, that can allow a company's employees to see in real time the progress of a big project. He also points out that CGS's server, hosted by Dell, is extremely fast and reliable.

Allan Skank, president of NetherGate Solutions, a small website development company in Ann Arbor, is somewhat skeptical of the potential for franchising web development and Internet services.

“I don't really know if that's a good idea or not to franchise something like that,” Skank says. “I don't know if there's any company out there that can really do something like that, because we're talking about a technology that changes a lot. And

with such a rapidly changing industry, this isn't like fast food, where once you kind of have the process down, it's something that doesn't necessarily change that much.”

If prospective franchisees conclude they don't like the “cash flow” of CGS, Burnham will be glad to sign them up for something

“This franchise is about cash flow,” Burnham says. “This is a cash flow franchise. They [franchisees] look at what they've got in, what they can make, and they make their own determination as to what that looks like.”

else—he says that Global Franchise Concepts will roll out three more businesses in 2003. Golf Links (see box, right) proposes to build a national network of computerized golf simulators. Practical Training Solutions, he says, will offer “mentored learning” at business skills learning centers. And Advanced Moving Solutions will provide companies with “a complete moving solution” when they relocate. “AMS is all about saying just good-bye to the place on Thursday and coming back on Monday afternoon [to a new location] and everything is exactly as you left it,” Burnham says.

Burnham boasts that Global Franchise Concepts receives about one “serious” franchise idea a month. “We can't do them all,” he says, adding that the company will probably add a few more franchise concepts and stop at six.

“This isn't all about me coming into some place as a hired gunslinger to run somebody's stock up and to make a lot of noise so they can sell their company,” he repeats. “I don't do any of that anymore. I sit on top of the shareholder crowd as the owner. And all these other systems are operated by other daddies. These are other people's dreams and other people's systems that want to operate in a franchising environment. It's not about me anymore.”

But wasn't CGS his idea? "It was my idea, but we married up to a lot of people who wanted to do it in a hurry," he says. He admits that AMS has an Invented Here sign on it as well. Doing an IPO for one of the subsidiaries is a possibility. Dabbling in European markets is second nature to Burnham, but he says the world of exchanges is too uncertain now.

"We'll just sit here and try to be patient," he says. "One of the things we've learned as we've certainly gotten older over these years—from way back when in the eighties—is patience and be a little more humble as you do

things. The world is a little different than it was back then. It's just continually shifting. . . . For a small-to-medium enterprise in the development stage of life, this is a tough row to hoe right now. Being able to continue to stand on your feet through it all is somewhat admirable. But it isn't easy."

Oddly enough, Burnham is fascinated with ancient civilization, specifically the period between 3000 and 5000 B.C. His two homes have shelves of books devoted to the subject, and he'd like to write one himself. What is it about that time in history that Burnham finds so intriguing?

"I think they knew a whole lot more about what's going on in the planet," he muses.

His other hobby also stems from histo-

ry, though it's more personal. He wants to write a book about the 307th Bombardment Group, which his father ran when it flew missions over the Pacific during World War II. Burnham says he's collecting letters from his father and other vets as well as talking to some surviving members of the group.

Burnham still practices law, although he says it takes up a small portion of his workweek. He helps clients raise capital outside the United States through IPOs and other international transactions. "Other than that, nothing," he says. "I can't even spell any other kind of law."

He's also still involved with the Republican Party, but not to the extent he was in the 1980s. "We do a couple gunslinging missions," he says, meaning fund-raising activities.

Though Burnham repeatedly emphasizes that he's no longer a business "gunslinger," he returns to the metaphor whenever he refers to his work for the GOP or his role as an attorney. As for the business of Global Franchise Concepts, he says he might stick around for five more years before calling it quits. But the man who has franchising in his blood will be a gunslinger, one way or another, till the end.

"We'll do the lawyer gunslinging forever," he says. "Because that's just sort of fun."

Although Burnham told the Observer that three Cyber Growth Solutions locations are currently in operation, the only one we could locate on the Internet was in Bradenton, Florida—the site of the company "kitchen."

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Dream investment?

Tom Burnham has a long history of lofty-sounding business plans. But even by his standards, the vision for Dream Links sounds dizzying. Both Burnham and Dream Links' founder, John Brown, say the golf simulation centers could become as popular as bowling alleys.

Burnham says Global Franchise Concepts plans to launch the entertainment and game improvement centers next year. As he describes them, the virtual golf centers will allow customers to feel as if they are playing some of the greatest courses in the world. For example, he says, the simulator could download the actual weather conditions in which a pro golfer is playing at Pebble Beach. The customer could simulate both playing that course and competing with that particular pro.

According to John Brown, president and founder of Dream Links, the company will open its first full-service center in a 15,000-square-foot building in Bradenton, Florida, early next year. His says the facility will include ten simulators, a pro shop, and a full-service bar and restaurant. GFC would then sell franchises to people who want to develop similar facilities around the country. Burnham estimates that the facility and simulators alone will require an investment of more than \$500,000, not to mention additional costs of a liquor permit, employees, and so on.

Brown says linking up with Burnham allows him to focus on his internal operations, leaving Global Franchise Concepts to handle franchising, trademarks, public relations, and other issues in which he has no expertise. Brown says he was aware of the problems that plagued South Beach Concepts when he teamed up with Burnham.

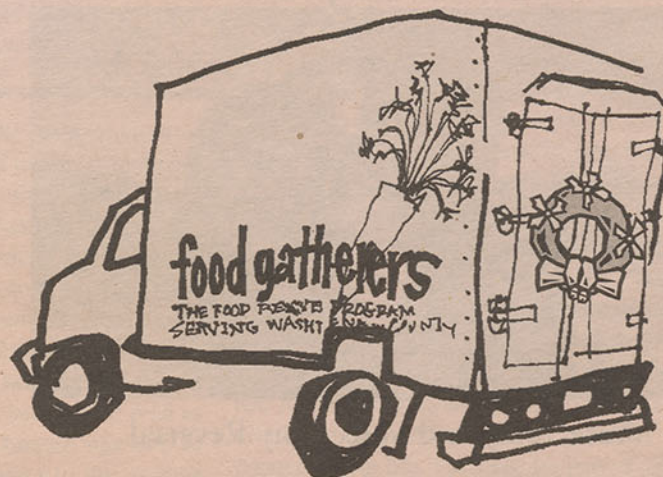
"The dot-com era was not necessarily the right time to be launching food franchises," Brown says. "Did I feel it was a risk from the perspective of my concept? Not necessarily, because he was providing me something that I didn't have anyhow. I believe we have a solid team in place. I believe there's struggles in getting any new business venture off the ground, especially in a tough economic environment."

Brown, who is also a director of Global Franchise Concepts, says he considers Burnham "just one of the guys."

"When you look at the resume, where he's been, what he's done, sometimes people probably think he's probably a stuffy lawyer," Brown says. "But yet he walks in and giggles and laughs and hangs out with the boys at Cyber Growth and calls them 'cool' and 'dudes.' He's a fun guy to be around."

—L.W.

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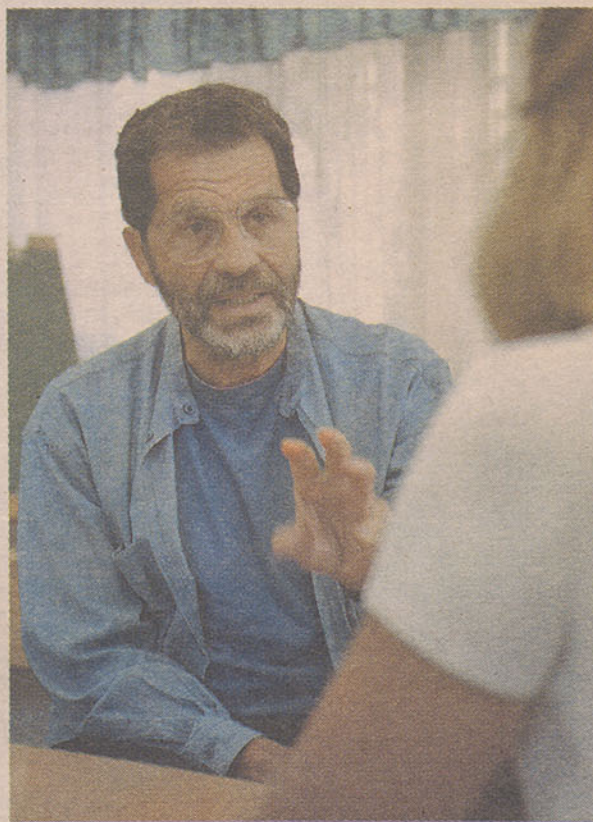
Being crazy isn't what it used to be. Descriptions like "lunatic"—"deranged by moonlight"—went out with sackcloth and ashes. Diagnoses like "softening of the brain" went out with hoops and bustles. Treatments like being locked in an attic went out with horses and buggies. The rise of the psychoanalytic movement at the beginning of the twentieth century effectively expunged from Western civilization these notions of insanity and of how it should be treated.

While it would be lovely to believe that the revolution in mental health practice meant that more people were leading happier and more fulfilling lives, in fact only the terminology and treatment have changed. These days everyone from excessively colicky infants to morbidly fearful septuagenarians is being diagnosed as having some sort of mental disorder. According to a report by the U.S. surgeon general a few years back, "28 percent of the adult U.S. population meets the full criteria for a mental or addictive disorder."

No wonder that more people than ever seem to be involved with some sort of therapy—especially in Ann Arbor, a city that according to *USA Today* has one of the country's highest per-capita concentrations of psychotherapists. In the course of writing this article I asked most of the people I know (a self-selecting group if ever there was one) whether they had ever been to a therapist, and most said they had. Of those who had been in therapy, most had seen a psychotherapist—a practitioner whose approach is rooted in the century-old work of Sigmund Freud.

But psychotherapy isn't what it used to be, either. Even among those who practice classical psychotherapy—the "talking cure"—there are now many different approaches. There are therapists who talk and therapists who don't; therapists who intervene and therapists who won't step in unless a patient threatens suicide; therapists who form deep bonds with their patients and therapists who won't even face their patients. There are physicians who were trained in psychotherapy but who also prescribe drugs like Zoloft or Ritalin to modify their patients' moods. And there are the therapists who have eliminated the traditional psychotherapeutic approach altogether and opted for the cognitive-behavioral model.

Like so many other people in Ann Arbor, I, too, have been in psychotherapy. I went to the same therapist at three different periods in my life. The first time was during a particularly difficult time in my personal life and lasted for several years. I went in an angry and melancholy megalomaniac and came out less angry, less melancholy, and a tad less megalomaniacal. I'd credit a substantial portion of my improvement to the therapist. The second time was during an especially stressful period in my professional life; the therapy then was briefer than my previous experience. I went in feeling successful and left feeling awful. However, I'd attribute a siz-



Line of descent: both Jack Novick and his wife, Kerry Kelly Novick, trained under Anna Freud in London.

able share of my "deterioration" to the disintegration of my professional life; in fact, I stopped treatment only because I could no longer afford it. The third and last time was during a period of extreme personal and professional pain and lasted just one disastrous session. I went in feeling suicidal and left looking for a way to kill myself. And I'd attribute the vast majority of my suicidal impulses at that moment to the brusque hostility of the therapist.

Clearly, I didn't kill myself. Why not? Did the therapist's apparent animosity cure me? Or was what I read as "brusque hostility" just the natural human reaction of someone who was fed up with listening to my endless whining about life and love? To gain some perspective on the possibilities and limits of therapy, I interviewed five men who practice psychotherapy in Ann Arbor. I asked them to define psychotherapy; to describe the kind of therapy they practice and the goals of treatment; to recall how and why they became therapists; and to give examples of the best- and worst-case scenarios for their patients.

"Endlessly fascinating"

It's the setting of a thousand *New Yorker* cartoons: the anxious patient is stretched out on a couch while the therapist sits silently, just out of sight, assiduously taking notes. This caricature is a not wholly inaccurate portrayal of the classic model of psychoanalysis as invented by Sigmund Freud.

If there is a psychotherapist in Ann Arbor who could be considered a direct descendant of Freud, it's Jack Novick. A short man with a full beard and an aggressively affable attitude, Novick trained under Freud's daughter Anna in London from 1965 through 1977. He and his wife, fellow therapist Kerry Kelly Novick, met during their training; they moved to Ann Arbor together in 1977, when Jack took a job as chief psychologist at the U-M Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital.

Contrary to the cartoon, Novick isn't silent in therapy—and he doesn't believe that Freud was, either. "I can't imagine Freud sitting behind a desk saying nothing," he says. "I knew people who knew Freud who said he was always actively engaged." He rejects the notion that the analyst should be a "reflecting mirror, an objective surgeon." Instead, he says, psychotherapy should be "a conversation—but a conversation with the aim of helping the other person."

Novick calls Freud's psychoanalytic model "the richest model of human functioning there is. But it is not only a nineteenth-century model. Psychoanalysis casts a wide net, and you can always add to it. . . . I keep adding to what I learned." Even what Novick adds, however, seems to be based in the works of Freud. He's currently working on an article about something he says was "in Freud from the beginning and [has] been ignored—the open system of competence, love, and cooperation with others."

As a Ph.D., Novick can't prescribe drugs, but he works with a number of physicians who do. "Depression can get in the way of therapy," he says, "and it's a good feeling to know you can do that [use antidepressants] to control your feelings." But he is adamant that drugs are no substitute for psychoanalysis: "If it's a good thing to know [that drugs can control feelings], it's a better feeling to be in control of my life. Feelings are part of life and shouldn't be medicated away."

Novick says his therapeutic goal is "self-knowledge, a widening of the capacity to deal with life, to give you more choices and more alternatives . . . to get in touch with your creative potential." While this sounds like a combination of psychotherapeutic platitudes and self-help-book bromides, Novick claims that the process he guides his patients through is neither. "We're our own best doctors," he insists, "and we don't need to be dependent on some God out there—and [that] means not only God but anything except themselves." This confidence that people can control their feelings by understanding them is the core of Freudian theory.

Like most therapists, Novick relishes telling his success stories. "I was at a conference and a woman came up

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On the Couch

A psychotherapy sampler.

to me who said, 'Oh, Doctor Novick, you helped me so much!' And it turned out that we had one session thirty years ago, and she just took off and had a good life! . . . I saw a kid in 'sixty-five when he was three years old, and he didn't speak, not at all. We worked together for four years. And then I met him again and he said, 'You were such an important part of my life.' And it turned out that he went on to Oxford and later became a lawyer and a father. He's very joyful and functioning and giving back to society."

Also like most therapists, Novick is much more reticent about his less successful cases. "There are no answers," he says. "There are so many ways of living a life."

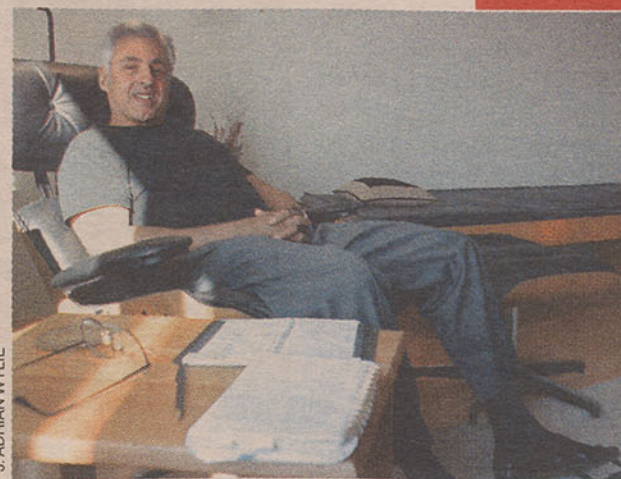
Though Novick remains an adjunct professor at the U-M, he now does all his work in private practice. He says that he does "forty to forty-five hours a week of paid work, [plus] thirty hours a week of unpaid work." That unpaid work includes writing scholarly articles with his wife and spending "a lot of time at the Allen Creek

And that seems to be the kind of psychotherapy Lerner practices, educated and articulate but rooted in real life.

Lerner trained initially at Rutgers University, which, he says, was so "incredibly behaviorist that the most intellectual discussion there was whether or not a sneeze was seen as aggressive behavior." But he says his own approach to therapy is "more interpersonal." Instead of seeing "people as objects [and] therapy as technology," Lerner says, he stresses "relationships and the importance of relationships." He ducks when asked for his definition for psychotherapy—"You'd think I could tell you that right off the top of my head!"—and then proposes a series of conditional definitions, all based on the notion of psychotherapy as a relationship between two people: "It's a relationship in which there is a focus on helping the other person resolve conflicts and problems, . . . a relationship dealing with better resolutions for problems, . . . a relationship to help the other person protect themselves better, to improve or make better use of their defenses, coping better, utilizing one's mind

and one's mental capacities better, . . . helping people define, pursue, and look after their own best interests."

For Lerner, that relationship "starts with the first phone call," but the opening sessions are more a time for evaluation than the beginning of therapy. "Evaluation is a two-way street. I'm evaluating them—Can I be of help to them? What brings them here? What kind of internal strengths do they have?—but [a therapy session] also gives them a chance to evaluate me, to see if they feel they can work with me. We both have to get a realistic grasp of what the problems are, what the frequency of



J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

Howard Lerner's goal is to help people "be open to growth in love and growth in their work, to live life creatively and intensely."

School." Kerry Kelly Novick is president of the school, which is "organized on psychological principles," with every family assigned a counselor who works with them from pregnancy through adulthood.

It's a busy schedule, but as Novick says frequently, he finds people "endlessly fascinating." And clearly, the way Novick finds people endlessly fascinating is Freudian.

"Psychotherapy isn't a movie with a happy ending"

Howard Lerner is a regular guy. With his Red Wings watch and his muscular stride, his silver-black hair and his *bon ami* smile, he struck me as someone I might meet in a bar and wind up drinking and talking with until it closed down. But his office in Tower Plaza is lined with shelves of books, starting with more books on the Swedish director Ingmar Bergman than I've ever seen in any one place and ending with the collected works of Freud.

sessions will be, what the method of payment will be, and, most importantly, what the goals of treatment will be. . . . Psychotherapy is a big commitment, a big investment of time, money, and energy. Jumping right into it is a big mistake."

Lerner has seen some patients "for a few months" and some for "eight or nine years," but for the most part, his patients fall into two groups: those he sees for one to four years and those he sees four to six years. Whatever the duration, the goal is the same: "to get the person to be open to growth in love and growth in their work, to live life creatively and intensely."

Therapy, according to Lerner, "isn't a movie with a happy ending." He doesn't try to "get rid of painful feelings, but to [help the patient] master them. By 'mastering them' I mean fully understanding those [traumatic] experiences cognitively and emotionally so that they no longer disrupt' his patients' lives. Mastery can turn what had been a traumatic experience into a strength. "Someone who has lost parents



J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

Cognitive-behavioral therapist Joe Himle sees patients for months rather than years.

at a young age can defensively withdraw from people . . . but if one masters [that trauma], one can gain a sensitivity to the importance of caring relationships."

In this case, Lerner knows exactly whereof he speaks: "My mother died when I was very young, and it had a huge impact on me. . . . The most important person [in getting through that] was my brother, who is eight years older than me. . . . He was—and he still is—very good at making sense of things. He helped me calm down, helped me make sense of things by being there, being with me, talking with me." It doesn't take a psychotherapist to recognize the origin of the kind of psychotherapy Lerner practices.

"I've never had a session in my life"

Joe Himle smiles a lot. A blond man in his early forties who looks at least a decade younger, Himle seems happy to be married (when he spoke of his wife he glowed), happy to be a father (when he spoke of his children he practically levitated), and very happy to be doing the work he's doing. He's one of the happiest people I've ever met—and by far the happiest therapist.

Why is that? Possibly it's because he is a happy husband and a happy father. And possibly it's because he's got a job that, he believes, offers a quick, efficient, and long-lasting solution to many mental health problems. Himle earned his Ph.D. jointly in social work and psychology, and he practices a relatively new kind of psychotherapy called cognitive-behavioral therapy.

To Himle, the name says it all: "'Cognitive' means we try to get people to recognize that their thinking is inaccurate, and 'behavioral' mean we try to get them to change the way they behave," he says. "Let's say someone feels nervous in social groups—that they think they look silly or act silly when they're at a party. Well, we try to help them to recognize that in reality, to other people, they don't look silly and they don't act silly. When people understand this, they can begin to change the way they think. And we've found that if they can change the way they think, then they can change the way they feel, too."

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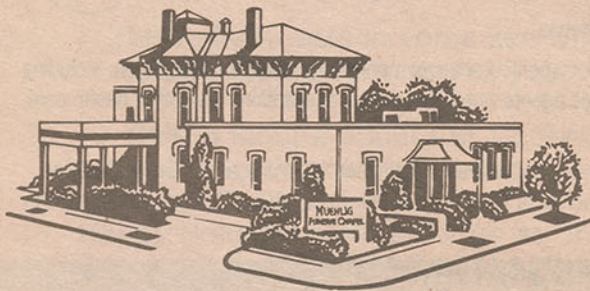
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On the Couch

A psychotherapy sampler.

Isn't this just the power of positive thinking dressed up in psychological garb? "No," counters Himle, "it's not as much about positive thinking as much as it's about accurate thinking." And while CBT is obviously related to B. F. Skinner's notion of behavior modification, Himle points out that "we try to get people to recognize the inaccuracies in their thinking and then change their behavior—not the other way around."

According to Himle, "One of the interesting points of cognitive-behavioral therapy is the scientific support for the effectiveness of treatment, the empirical proof that it works for three out of four people who participate. And the best part is that the gains are durable." While that matches the American Psychiatric Association's estimate that 75 percent of all patients "improve" in psychotherapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy takes far less time than most other kinds of therapy. "It usually takes three or four months [of] weekly sessions," Himle says. That's a fraction of the three to seven years of one to five weekly sessions that is standard for many other types of psychotherapeutic treatments, and it falls well within what most health insurance plans will pay. But doesn't it leave people's deep, underlying psychiatric problems untreated? "Our emphasis is on the here and now," says Himle. "People working in psychotherapy have the idea that if we understand the cause of the problem, we can treat the problem. And that might not necessarily be the case for everyone. Sometimes it's enough just to treat the problem."

As part of their training, classical psychotherapists typically undergo extensive therapy themselves. But Himle has never tried cognitive-behavioral therapy—or any other kind. "I've never had a session in my life. I've never sat in that chair," he says with a cheerful smile. "I've been fortunate so far."

"The most difficult and humbling thing I've ever done"

Psychiatrist Tom Segall sounds like Gary Cooper. That's not because Segall has Cooper's cowboy drawl—on the contrary, his voice is clear and his diction precise—but because he's so intensely laconic. He doesn't start a sentence until he knows every word of what he's going to say, and he won't say one word more than necessary to make his point. Unlike Cooper, Segall is of medium height and build, and he has thinning dark hair. But there is a look in his dark eyes—one that goes right into you but reveals nothing of him—that comes straight out of *High Noon*.

"Why do people come [to psychotherapy]?" Segall asks rhetorically. "Not because they want to. It's not an easy thing to face your fears." They come, he says, "because

their fears are causing them discomfort—and 'discomfort' is a euphemism—in their lives, because they're experiencing significant distress in their lives." The goal of psychotherapy, he says, is "to get people to understand enough about themselves so that they are relatively free to enjoy life—to get them to the point where you can appreciate the difficulties of life and live with them."

Segall defines psychotherapy as "a process of learning how to study oneself to try to understand oneself better—'better' as in it's better to be in charge of your life, better to be in control of your life." Rather than playing the "reflecting mirror," Segall begins the process by trying to assess "what [the patient] is up against and what they're looking for, and that involves a lot of questions on my part."

The first time we spoke, Segall volunteered that he might not be the "right therapist for every patient" and that "not every problem can be treated by a therapist." Among the therapists I talked to, it was a unique moment of humility—but when I later asked Segall to elaborate, it turned out



"As long as a person wants to try to help themselves," says Tom Segall, "there's a chance that therapy can be helpful."

the moment had passed:

"I think that if a therapist really understands the nature of a person's problems and understands their makeup, both their strengths and weaknesses, potentially therapy can be helpful to anyone." When I questioned him further, Segall replied, "As long as a person wants to try to help themselves, there's a chance that therapy can be helpful."

Segall says he is currently treating about forty or fifty patients, some a couple of times a week, others a couple of times every few months. "Intensive therapy is not the most useful thing for everybody, and it's not what everybody wants, either," he explains. "What we do together is determined by what the patient is motivated to do and by what they're capable of doing. For instance, there are some people who

have deeply ingrained problems in their personalities that severely limit what they want to accomplish in life, and an in-depth study might be most useful to them. On the other hand, sometimes somebody will be very distressed by a normal reaction to something normal in their life but they don't know it's normal—for instance, grief over the death of a spouse, or losing a job. "In that case the most important intervention, after you understand how they usually function as a person, may be as a short-term educational experience."

The first time we spoke, Segall volunteered that he might not be the "right therapist for every patient" and that "not every problem can be treated by a therapist." Among the therapists I talked to, it was a unique moment of humility—but when I later asked Segall to elaborate, it turned out the moment had passed.

Although he is a physician who can and does prescribe drugs for his patients, Segall sees "drugs as an adjunct to therapy. Medication can be helpful in modifying and mitigating the symptoms. . . . In modifying the symptoms, drugs can modify the stresses. But they can't work on the problems people have in their lives. You've made them more comfortable, but you haven't cured them."

The use of medications aside, perhaps the biggest difference between Segall and the other therapists with whom I spoke is his marked reluctance to talk about himself. Whereas both Novick and Lerner seemed happy to do most of the talking for a change, Segall was conspicuously disinclined to reveal anything of himself. This might be because, in his heart of hearts, Segall is a true Freudian who will not risk turning what Novick described as an "objective surgeon" into the subject himself. Or it might be because Segall simply doesn't want to say anything about his private life. When asked why he became a therapist, Segall replied with a bland generality: "I've always been interested in what people think, in what makes people tick." Pressed on what specifically drew him to psychotherapy, Segall remarked curtly that "nobody goes into psychotherapy to solve somebody else's problems," and would say no more.

Has he himself ever been in psychotherapy? "I have been. And it was the most difficult and humbling thing I've ever done." Segall paused for a moment and added, "And the most useful, because of the impact it's had on the quality of my life." He remained silent for a few moments longer and then said a single word, "Yeah . . ." which he let hang for a long time in the silent air of his office. Our time, as therapists say, was up.

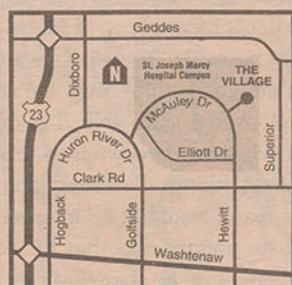
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On the Couch

A psychotherapy sampler.

"You don't know nothing"

Most psychotherapists don't talk about their patients, or at least not about the gritty and sometimes gory details of their patients' lives and treatments. And most psychotherapists don't talk about themselves much either. Perry Engstrom, however, does both these things, and he does them with a frank openness that is either disturbing or refreshing, depending on your point of view.

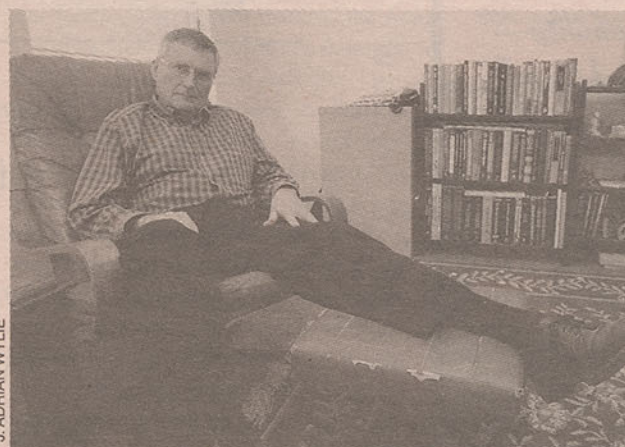
Engstrom—a small, hard-muscled man in his fifties—won't give any general definition of psychotherapy except to say that "it's defined by the person I'm listening to." But Engstrom will say how he prac-

says Engstrom. It turned out that the man's mother had killed herself—and "a few months before his mother's death, she'd brought him into her bathroom and undressed and dressed in front of him. And his response was 'How could anything ever be so exciting?' Those are exactly his words—'How could anything ever be so exciting?'"

"He experienced an overload of excitement at the same time as he knew he shouldn't be there and shouldn't be enjoying this—and he had the compulsion to repeat a trauma. He found himself drawn to affairs with prostitutes, and he was terrified at the behavior. And that's why he came to see me."

Engstrom's goal is to give his patients "freedom," he says. "I think they should be able to experience anything, to have the autonomy to do what they want, to be freed from the compulsion inside to do things that they don't want to do." Engstrom hastens to add that this "doesn't mean they can do whatever they want! It means they can do whatever they want that's reasonable."

As an M.S.W., Engstrom can't prescribe drugs. While he acknowledges a role for antidepressants like Prozac and Zoloft, he believes that they aren't beneficial in the long term, because "to reduce the level of pain and confusion is [also] to reduce the level of pleasure. Some patients tell me, 'It's like having a pane of glass between



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"Ego-autonomy is mental health," says Perry Engstrom. "You live from the inside, making your own rules."

tices therapy: "I try to immerse myself in the person's wants and needs, in their reality and experience and relationships, with the goal of understanding how those [things] compel their outer and inner behavior." And he always bases his treatment on a piece of advice he once got from a mentor: "You don't know nothing."

Actually, Engstrom—who has a master's in social work—seems to know quite a lot: he uses Greek, Latin, French, and German phrases easily in his conversation; he employs quotations from Stendhal and Dostoevsky to illustrate his points; and he has the self-knowledge and the self-confidence to admit to his limitations. But by his description, what he already knows is less significant than what he learns from his patients themselves. "I had a patient, a man, who said, 'You don't want to hear about the good stuff—only the stuff that's wrong.' And I said, 'No, I want to hear about whatever you want to tell me.' He thought the things that were good were the things that I wouldn't be interested in, but when he understood that he could talk about anything, he started to talk about his inner world, and it was off to the races!"

The psychotherapeutic "races" are often exhilarating, more often frightening, and always revealing. "I once treated a successful medical professional who engaged in dangerous sexual relationships,"

me and my feelings."

Engstrom seems to be more interactive than most of the other therapists with whom I spoke, offering insights and advice where others would remain resolutely silent. There are even circumstances in which Engstrom will intrude into patients' private lives by calling them at home or involving their families or friends. "If I think a patient's safety is jeopardized, I'd break the framework [of therapy] to protect them—if I feel that there is a direct threat, if they have a plan to commit suicide." Although other therapists also said that they would intervene in such circumstances, Engstrom seems to be the only one to have said directly to his patients, "Contact me and we'll talk, and then you can do what you want." His rationale, Engstrom explains, is that "if someone wants to commit suicide, they'll find a way. What I try to do is to confront them with my own powerlessness." Powerlessness, indeed: Engstrom hesitantly admits that one of his patients did commit suicide—though all he will say about it was that it made him feel "sad."

Suicide is the worst-case scenario. In the best cases, which Engstrom says are far more numerous, the patient ends therapy happily. "Ego-autonomy—that's from the Greek:

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'autonomy' means the ego makes its own rules—is mental health. You live from the inside, making your own rules. The freedom from pain is so great that you can do whatever you want, but with a sense of responsibility and the ability to respond how you choose."

In Engstrom's own case, "rigorous therapy for myself" was "the most important thing" in his training. These days, he says, "I'm really enjoying my life. I feel really human. There's no place inside myself I

*Did therapy work for me?
I guess it did: even after
my disastrous last session,
I didn't kill myself, and I
feel much better now. Am
I therefore one of the 75
percent who are "improved"
by psychotherapy? Or did
my personal and professional
situation change?*

can't go, no parts that are restricted." Some of the places inside himself are fun to access, like his career as a sky diver, and some places are less enjoyable, like his years living underground as a draft dodger. But Engstrom can look at all of them without flinching. More significant, his own therapy has freed him from what he describes as the "endless childish play" of skydiving. "I can take that playfulness that I experienced in skydiving, and I can incorporate it into my life in a positive sense. I don't have to be Peter Pan anymore."

Does it work?

So, as Paul Simon once asked, can analysis be worthwhile?

The American Psychiatric Association and the psychotherapists certainly believe it is—but, of course, they are professionally invested in its success. The fifty acquaintances I spoke with didn't match the 75 percent improvement rate claimed by the APA; fewer than half thought their treatment was especially effective. Indeed, many said they thought that if they had improved at all, their improvements had little or nothing to do with psychotherapy.

Did it work for me? I guess it did: even after my disastrous last session, I didn't kill myself, and I feel much better now. Am I therefore one of the 75 percent who are "improved" by psychotherapy? Or did my personal and professional situation change? Or did I change? Who knows? And who could ever know?

In the end, it all comes back to the individual. No doubt some people do benefit from rigorous psychoanalysis, or mood-altering drugs, or cognitive-behavioral therapy. And no doubt some people don't. The important thing for all patients—for all persons—is to be aware of the therapy and the therapist, to be attentive to the changes in themselves, and to be conscious of what these changes mean. As more than one therapist told me, ultimately it's all about self-knowledge. ■

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For more than a decade, Ed Martin has cast a shadow over the U-M basketball program. Earlier this year, when the electrician and numbers runner finally cut a deal and confessed, officials learned that even the firing of former coach Steve Fisher in 1997 hadn't halted Martin's "loans" to Michigan players. In November U-M president Mary Sue Coleman and athletic director Bill Martin announced that the university would unilaterally forfeit 117 games in which Ed Martin's protégés took part and would bar itself from postseason play in 2003.

The self-inflicted humiliation reveals just how much Michigan is willing to sacrifice to finally emerge from Ed Martin's shadow. Even if the NCAA assesses additional penalties in the months ahead, at least the rough outlines of the price the U-M must pay are now known.

It's a dark hour for Michigan fans—but it's a turning point as well. For the first time in half a decade, the worst is known, and fans can look toward a day when they will again see the sun. Here Craig Ross, author of the forthcoming book *The Obscene Diaries of a Michigan Fan*, explains why he sees a bright future for the Wolverines under Tommy Amaker, now in his second year as the U-M's head men's basketball coach.

In the summer of 2001 I walked into Crisler Arena during the U-M's annual basketball camps. I wanted to check out the action and satisfy my curiosity about Michigan's new coach, Tommy Amaker. Amaker's predecessor, Brian Ellerbe, had seemed aloof and distant, and I wondered how the new administration would handle the public-relations elements of the job.

It didn't take long to find out. As I walked through the Crisler tunnel, I nearly bumped into Amaker. I tried to walk around him, but he stopped me, held out his hand, and announced, "Hi, I'm Tommy Amaker, the new coach." (I've since learned that he prefers to be called either "Tommy" or "coach"—he seems uncomfortable with anything more formal.) The coach is a Duke graduate and former basketball star, and in my warped basketball mind, Duke basketball fans are lower than a cadre of rampaging slugs. So I was surprised to discover how intelligent, personable, and thoughtful Amaker is.

In my anti-Duke fugue, I volunteered that I despised his old coach, Mike Krzyzewski. Instead of responding with the coldness that my rudeness deserved, Amaker remained urbane and thoughtful. He wanted to know why I felt that way—Krzyzewski, after all, is the media-anointed poster person for the "good side" of college basketball.

I explained that the divergence of the image from the reality bothered me. Anyone who has sat near Coach K during a game knows he is among the most foul-mouthed referee baiters in the history of college basketball—as bad as or worse than his mentor, the reportedly deranged and generally reviled Bobby Knight.

"He thinks that's part of his job," Amaker explained.

In his first season, the U-M men's basketball team posted its worst record since 1962. This year won't be much better.

So what's so great about Tommy Amaker?

The Coach as Mensch

BY CRAIG ROSS

"I can see that," I responded. The coach smiled. I persisted. "Knight is considered a boorish thug. K is considered an angel. But watch K during a game, cursing and swearing at the officials over anything that resembles a close call. The truth is that he is worse, game in and game out, than Knight ever was. He just doesn't throw chairs."

"Do you think it works?" Amaker asked.

"No question," I admitted. "Look at Shane Battier." The big Duke forward was a notorious flopper, to the delight of TV color announcers. The guy got tossed around the court like a rag doll by 160-pound point guards, yet the zebras almost always gave him the call because they knew K would lacerate them if they didn't.

"So Mike is effective during games?" Amaker asked.

"Yep," I admitted.

I also had to admit that Amaker was proving himself a reasonably fair cross-examiner. Better than I was, in fact—and that's supposed to be my profession. As we parted, I mentioned that I had just finished writing the first draft of a book about Michigan sports. He expressed interest and asked me to drop off a copy at his office.

I took this as mere politeness, promised that I would get him a copy, and put the matter out of my mind—until a week or two later when I was walking down State Street and met Amaker walking in the oth-

er direction. "Craig, where's my book?" he asked.

I was stunned—the man had to have met 10,000 new people in his first weeks in town. On the heels of the Ed Martin three-ring circus, I was pretty much convinced. Tommy Amaker is just what U-M basketball needed: a genuine mensch.

More than a year later, Michigan basketball fans are splitting into camps on Amaker. It's not as extreme as the passionately diametric positions you hear about football coach Lloyd Carr, but their division does indicate how far Michigan's basketball program has fallen since 1989's national championship.

One group of critics—admittedly, a very small minority—maintain that Amaker just can't coach. They look at the losing record of his first Michigan season, find no improvement over Ellerbe, and see nothing but gloom in the future. They say Michigan should have hired someone else, preferably Rick Pitino or Bobby Knight or maybe Clair Bee. Some even think we got rope-a-doped by the Coach K illusion.



As he enters his second year, U-M fans are splitting into opposing camps over whether Tommy Amaker was the right choice to succeed Brian Ellerbe as coach.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The second negative camp—the majority of the Amaker skeptics—feel the same frustration but also think it is just way too early to make any final judgments. They believe that Amaker should be given the opportunity to be evaluated once he has brought his "own guys" into the program. Most of these fans like Amaker but would be willing to pitch him to Panhandle State if another two years go by and there is still no light at the end of the tunnel. Still, these folks shake their heads when they see what appears to be obvious—that Amaker's first team was no better than Ellerbe's last team, and maybe worse.

I think most fans realized just how bad things were in February, when a truly lousy Purdue team (Gene Keady's worst, no question) waxed the Wolverines by thirty-six points in West Lafayette. This game followed a loss against Colorado State at Fort Collins. Okay, anyone can lose a nonconference game on the road—but CSU was a woeful team, last in its conference.



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The Coach as Mensch

CONTINUED

After these two very bad losses, the U-M came home to play a good Indiana team. It was a contest for more or less five minutes, until the Hoosiers started to play and socked the Wolverines by a 75-55 final—even though Indiana's best player, Jared Jeffries, had an injured ankle and was limited in time and effectiveness. The Wolverines couldn't right the ship and got blown out by twenty points twice more before playing Ohio State respectably at Crisler—but still losing by nine.

The losses leading up to the OSU game—by thirty-six, twenty, twenty, and twenty points—represented the worst four-game stretch for any basketball team in Michigan history. To set the bar as low as possible, how did the 2001-2002 team compare with Ellerbe's last gasp? Neither sight is pretty; the excised version, however, is that Amaker won one more game in the Big Ten than Ellerbe (5-11 versus 4-12) but turned in an even worse point differential: -10.6 per game as compared to Ellerbe's -7.6. I hate to say it, but I conclude that Amaker's first year as coach was the Wolverines' worst since (at least) 1962.

None of this, in my judgment, falls on Amaker's shoulders. The talent cupboard was just plain bare, even when measured against Ellerbe's last team. Ellerbe had two huge bodies—Josh Asselin and Josh Moore—that were not replaced last season. Neither Asselin nor Moore was a star, but their presence allowed Michigan—and especially the tough and admirable Chris Young—to play hard in the middle, to fight for rebounds and contest shots without worrying about fouling out.

Michigan was a less-than-average-rebounding team in 2000-2001—but the Wolverines were just barely below average in the Big Ten, a good rebounding league. In Amaker's first year, they were as bad as it gets. This was a predictable result, because (a) Chris Young was forced into tentative play, since there was no backup center and no other player over six feet six inches on the team, and (b) when Young was out of the lineup the rebounding carnage was brutal, and (c) Young was often in foul trouble. Because Michigan had exactly one player on the roster who qualified as a power forward or center, there was little way Michigan could compete unless, say, it had Jerry Stackhouse and Jason Kidd in the backcourt. (I looked it up. Michigan didn't.)

So what could Amaker do? Well, one thing that seemed possible, although his guards were either not very good or not very tested, was to limit turnovers by controlling the pace of the game and encouraging the Wolverines to be careful with the ball. Add this to more defensive pressure—or at least better defense—and you

have a recipe for improvement. Amaker was at least partially successful in this. The Wolverines decreased their turnovers and increased the number of TOs created last season, moving from the woeful to the mediocre in this element of the game.

Amaker said (in quasi private) that his goal was "to win games with the principles we are trying to establish and not on the momentary consideration of who can make a basket." He was making it clear he had bigger fish to fry than winning twelve versus ten games. Amaker's goal was to establish the nature of his program—that those who play would be those who followed the mandates of the coaching staff. In that respect,



Lester Abram is one of four freshmen who will see significant minutes this season.

and in a successful recruiting year, his first season can be described as a success.

There's one more factor that I think is relevant in assessing last season, though I admit not every fan will agree. After Michigan lost to Purdue, Colorado State, and Indiana, I attended one of Amaker's Monday luncheons. I expected that the coach might be just a little cranky or testy or (at best) short with his audience.

Instead, the coach was his ordinary polite, kind, and thoughtful self, never bristling at comments or questions that ranged among (a) the "senselessness" of his substitution patterns, (b) why the PA person announced the Michigan team the way he did, (c) thoughts about putting the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" on the scoreboard, (d) how to (I swear) improve Chris Young's free throw shooting motion (I guess the stellar 79.4 percent that Young shot for the season just wasn't quite good enough for this fan), and (e) the stale popcorn at Crisler (honest). Amaker courteously answered every question the audience had, staying for seventy minutes to hear every nutball prescription in the universe (from hypnotherapists to dietary supplements) the fans thought might improve the Michigan team. When no one had anything else to ask, he prodded the crowd for more. "Nothing? Well, thanks for being there for the program and being the great fans you are." No irony intended. I guarantee.

To "bottom line" types (just wins and losses, baby), Amaker's patience and demeanor might not mean very much. But to me, after a decade of Ed Martin, Amaker seems the right solution. I noticed, in the Big Ten last year, a change in the sideline coaching demeanors of previously polite and controlled coaches. Mike Davis (Indiana) and Jim O'Brien (OSU), in particular,

became incredible whiners after a year and many years respectively of urbane behavior on the sidelines. And Tom Izzo, who previously had picked his spots to go after the zebras, became a constant referee baiter and complainer. None of these guys is dumb; they must believe that to get a fair shake they have to attempt some level of intimidation or, at least, make it clear they are displeased with calls.

But Amaker didn't follow suit. He and his team were always well mannered. No trash talk. No technical fouls on Michigan, that I recall, during the entire season. They just went about their business. And—contrary to Coach K's theory that bullying the refs is part of the job—it worked. Michigan came away with reasonably called games from the refs last year, shooting only twelve fewer free throws on the year than their opponents in the Big Ten. Indeed, I felt that the Wolverines got decent to great officiating in every game they played, with the exception of the first half at MSU, when referee Phil Bova took Chris Young out of the game with ludicrous and nonexistent fouls. (This whining aside, MSU was all of its twenty-seven-point margin better than Michigan.)

So how does this year stack up? The good news is that underpublicized freshman Lester Abram can really play (currently at the two-guard spot), and his strengths are in the relative subtleties of the game. Though not spectacular in any one element, he can do everything with competence. He is the kind of player who impresses after the game—when you look down at the stat sheet and see it filled up. And he fits in with others. He doesn't need it to be his show.

The other good news is that Avery

Contrary to Coach K's theory that bullying the refs is part of the job, Amaker's well-mannered approach worked. Michigan came away with reasonably called games from the refs last year, shooting only twelve fewer free throws on the year than their opponents in the Big Ten.

Queen made great strides in the summer (especially in shooting the ball) and is pressing another freshman, the much hyped Daniel Horton (McDonald's All-American), at point guard. Horton has a reasonably complete game, and at nearly a foot taller than the five-foot-five Queen, he would seem destined for the majority of minutes. The problem is that Horton is not yet a consistent shooter from any distance beyond fifteen feet. Dommanic Ingerson has also improved his fundamentals, and he should allow Amaker to bring scoring

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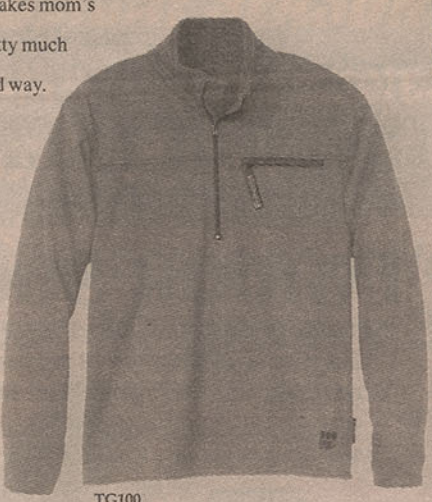
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The Coach as Mensch

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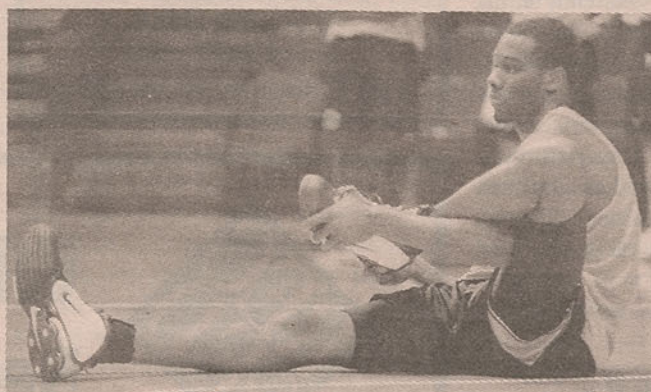
off the bench at the two-guard position, without being concerned about other serious deficiencies. So the backcourt will be better, perhaps much better, than it was last year.

The forward positions should also be stronger. Abram's presence and Ingerson's



PHOTOS BY ADRIAN WYLIE

The Wolverines' biggest hole is at center. Graham Brown (above) is strong but raw. Chris Hunter is skilled but doesn't seem physically ready for the Big Ten wars.



improvement allow Amaker to move Bernard Robinson to the small forward and LaVell Blanchard to the power forward. This seems the best alternative for their respective talents, and it is the direction the coaching staff seemed to be turning in the practices I observed. Robinson turns the ball over too much to be effective at the two spot, but he and Blanchard are quick and should be tough to defend at the three and four. Both are in top physical condition, and on the offensive end they should do well. However, since they are relatively thin and short by Big Ten standards, they may have trouble defending against teams with bigger and bulkier forwards. This weakness is especially serious because the Wolverines lack an experienced center to back them up.

Center is the hole. Graham Brown, a freshman from Mio, is big and strong and well ahead of Chris Young at this age, but he is raw and to my eyes seems foul prone. He will be a good player—perhaps a very good player—but it will be a surprise if he is a good player this year. Chris Hunter, a near-seven-foot freshman, can also play the center and either forward spot. But while he has remarkable skills

for a person of his height, he does not seem physically ready for the Big Ten wars. Hunter is a twig, especially in his lower body, so it seems likely he will be pushed around, at least in his time at center. Nevertheless, he will play as long as he is healthy. The surprise rumor is that as of early November, sophomore Chuck Bailey is in the lead in the center derby. The problem is that Bailey is only about six feet six. He is tough. He is a gamer. But is he a center?

Overall, the team should be better offensively, though the lack of a post game will prove problematic. Inconsistent shooting will also plague the Wolverines. Despite their size disadvantage on the boards, the Wolverines may also improve defensively—Amaker has the team working on a variety of half-court traps that should trouble teams with less-than-stellar ball handling.

Not long ago, I wouldn't have predicted a much better showing this year—after all, four freshmen are going to see significant minutes this season. But I have talked myself into it. My call: the U-M will go 7-9 in the Big Ten. With Michigan banished to Margaritaville, though, there'll be no spot in the NIT.

The great leap forward will come next year, when Amaker's second recruits hit the court and the first class has the benefit of battle scars. I expect that Amaker will

prove himself in the long run to be, at the least, a very good Big Ten coach. That said, I have to admit I don't really care what his ultimate record at Michigan turns out to be. What Amaker brings to the university is more important than wins and losses. Michigan basketball has seen

only one new embarrassing event in the past year and a half (a possible criminal charge against Ellerbe recruit Bernard Robinson)—a huge relief in a program constantly beset by "incidents" for a decade.

Amaker's first recruits all show considerable promise as basketball players—but the terrific thing about them is that they are all legitimate students. All have high school grade averages in the 3.0 range or higher, and all scored over 1000 (some much higher) on the SAT. With kids like these in the program, we can keep losing for all I care. But we won't. The Wolverines will turn it around. The comeback won't come as quickly as most of us would like, but it will come. And I believe it will come with no more Ed Martins and a minimum of poor behavior by the kids.

This summer I stopped by Crisler to watch a pickup game. Two Michigan freshmen who were not on the court had brought books; they were studying while they waited their turn. Eavesdropping, I heard numerous conversations among Amaker's recruits about their classes. It is, take my word for it, a new day in Michigan basketball. ■

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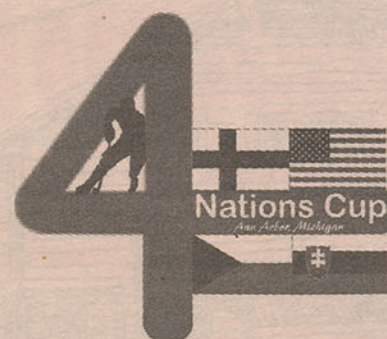
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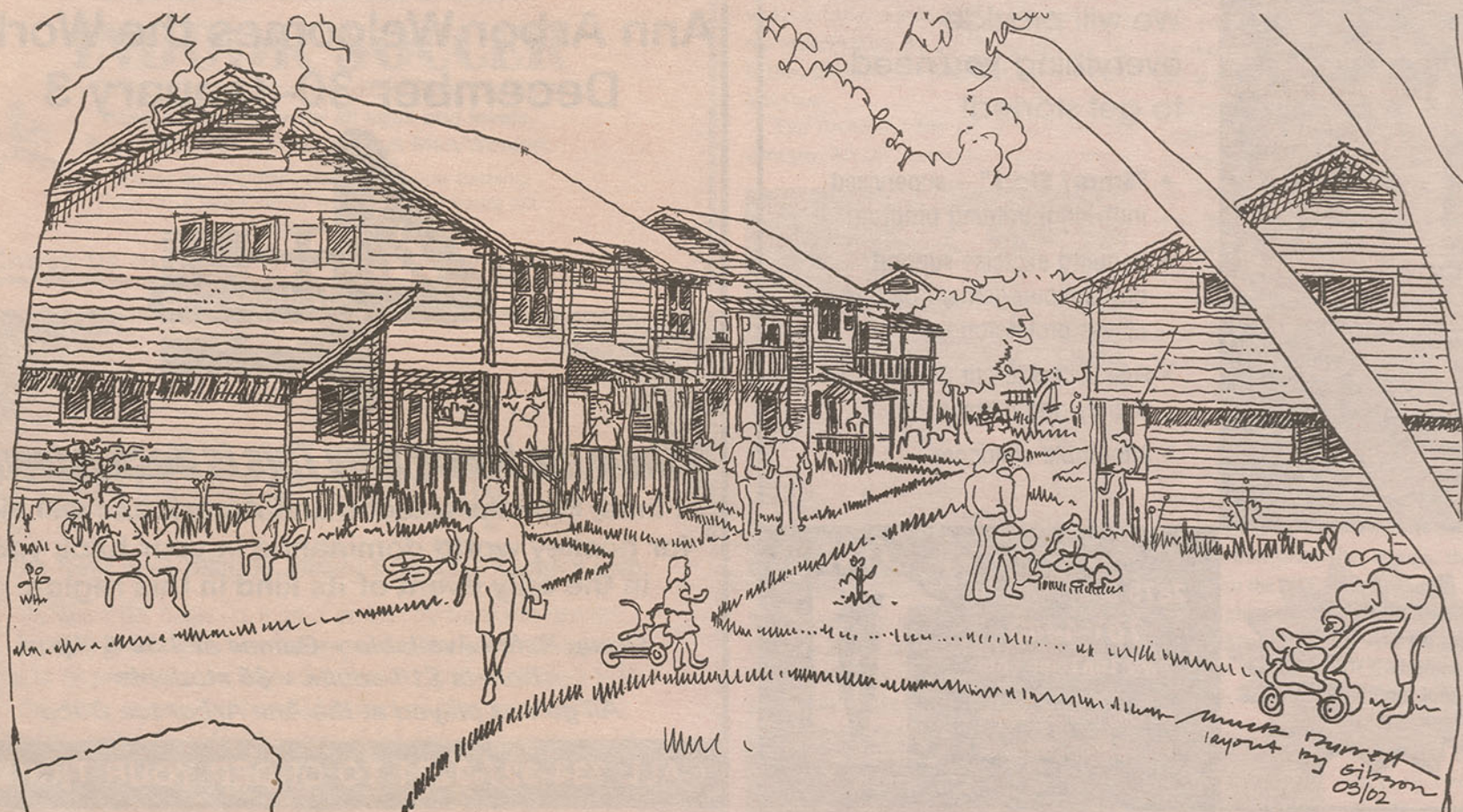
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CLASH OF THE ELITISTS

by Todd Spencer

★ ANN ARBOR vs. SAN FRANCISCO ★

Ann Arbor is arguably the most Californian of Michigan communities, so it's no surprise that a pipeline connects the two cities, carrying a constant flow of thrill-seeking Ann Arborites and recent U-M grads to the City by the Bay. Ann Arbor native Todd Spencer made the move to "The City"—"Don't call it 'San Fran'!" he warns—four years ago. He recently e-mailed his thoughts on the differences and surprising similarities he's found between the two meccas.



Ann Arbor: Tourists from Royal Oak ask you directions to Zingerman's.

San Francisco: Tourists from Moscow ask you directions to Union Square.

Ann Arbor: Sidewalks are chalked with political slogans.

San Francisco: Sidewalks are stained with urine.

Ann Arbor: Your waitress is a student.

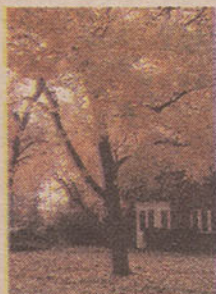
San Francisco: Your server is a model.

Ann Arbor: Hates East Lansing.

San Francisco: Hates Los Angeles.

Ann Arbor: Huron River Drive.

San Francisco: Route 1.



Ann Arbor: Trees everywhere!

San Francisco: Rarely seen, weird-looking botanical life forms with leaves that never change color, if they have leaves at all.



Ann Arbor: Friends first!

San Francisco: Get to know someone on a date.

Ann Arbor: Hash Bash.

San Francisco: Burning Man.

Ann Arbor: Starbucks, Borders, National Public Radio, Green Party, yoga, everyone eats out.

San Francisco: Ditto.

Ann Arbor: Scared of Detroit.

San Francisco: Scared of Oakland.

Ann Arbor: Cottage up north.

San Francisco: Lake Tahoe timeshare.

Ann Arbor: When a tornado kills in Missouri, it's front-page news.

San Francisco: When an earthquake kills in Honduras, it's front-page news.

Ann Arbor: Everyone went to Michigan.

San Francisco: Everyone went to Harvard.



Ann Arbor: Beautiful, relaxing, spacious cafes.

San Francisco: Grungy, claustrophobic cafes.



Ann Arbor: Buy clothes at Briarwood mall.

San Francisco: Buy clothes at Versace boutique.

Ann Arbor: People politely cover their mouths when they cough.

San Francisco: People cough all over you.

Ann Arbor: College football rules.

San Francisco: College football, what? ... ? Go Giants!

Ann Arbor: Own a house.

San Francisco: Spend as much to rent a flat.

Ann Arbor: Bowling alleys, swimming pools, softball diamonds.

San Francisco: Raves, sex clubs, nude beaches.

Ann Arbor: Wake to songbirds.

San Francisco: Wake to the asthmatic cooing of dirty pigeons.



Ann Arbor: People walk on the right side of the sidewalk.

San Francisco: Left, right, middle, zig, zag—who cares?

Ann Arbor: Cats seen in yards or on porches.

San Francisco: Cats seen only on Cat Missing posters.



Ann Arbor: Motorists honk to say hi to people they know on the sidewalks downtown.

San Francisco: Motorists honk to say f-you to other drivers in gridlock downtown.

Ann Arbor: The Diag.

San Francisco: Golden Gate Park.

Ann Arbor: Compete with your friends, boundless rights to self-expression, smug sense of superiority, no one says hi on the sidewalks.

San Francisco: Ditto.

Ann Arbor: Traffic stops for jaywalkers.

San Francisco: Pedestrians get run down daily.

Ann Arbor: Nick Delbanco.

San Francisco: Danielle Steel.

Ann Arbor: Andrew W.K., Taproot.

San Francisco: Train, Third Eye Blind.

Ann Arbor: Everyone is from somewhere else.

San Francisco: Ditto.

Ann Arbor: Art Fair, once a year.

San Francisco: Fisherman's Wharf, daily.

Ann Arbor: Dexter—Ann Arbor Run.

San Francisco: Bay to Breakers.

Ann Arbor: Public schools are great.

San Francisco: Public schools resemble M*A*S*H units.

Ann Arbor: Spine-tingling electrical storms.

San Francisco: No thunder, no lightning.

Ann Arbor: Thunderstorms knock out electricity.

San Francisco: PG&E initiates a rolling blackout.

Ann Arbor: Scorns conspicuous consumption.

San Francisco: From haircuts to convertibles to clothes to jewelry . . . it's insane.



SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor

STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Department clears over 94 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator will declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. At this point a number of City departments become involved, supplementing the Public Services Department's equipment and operators. While the Public Services Department crews clear the major streets, Parks and Recreation and Utilities Department's crews begin working on the residential streets. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

*** On even-numbered days, vehicles may not park on the even-numbered sides of these streets** in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

*** On odd-numbered days, vehicles may not park on the odd-numbered sides of these streets** in order to allow plows to clear the odd-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

The City snow desk is staffed when snow parking restrictions are in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width

enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to \$500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised 11/01

The Schwaben Halle at 215 South Ashley was sold a year ago March, but the Schwaebischer Unterstuetzungs Verein ("Swabian Support Association"), the group that built it, is still alive and kicking. Better known simply as the "Schwabens Verein," the club was founded 114 years ago by recent German immigrants. Although the local German community is by now pretty well assimilated, the Verein survives, in large part because of the fun the members and their families have sharing their common ancestry. "Eat, drink, and dance. What else do Germans do?" laughs member Walter Metzger. At the spring Bockbierfest, says president Art French, "the food is different, but we still eat and drink and dance. Any excuse for a party."

Swabians, who take their name from a medieval kingdom in southern Germany, began immigrating to Ann Arbor as early as 1825, usually when there were economic or political problems in Germany. The 1880 immigrants were escaping the effects of Bismarck's rule, as well as an economic depression, choosing Ann Arbor because Germans from earlier migrations were already here. But although other Germans in town helped them get established, the new arrivals felt a need for mutual support in the new country.

Tailor Gottlieb Wild, who was born near Stuttgart and served a four-year apprenticeship before coming to America, brought the idea of a Swabian club to Ann Arbor. His story, as related in Samuel Beakes's 1906 *Past and Present of Washtenaw County*, is like that of many other Ann Arbor German immigrants: "He came to America when but seventeen years of age, and made his way to Ann Arbor, having relatives in this city, who had come to the New World in 1835."

In 1887 Wild moved to Toledo to work as a journeyman tailor. He became involved with a Swabian social group there, and when he returned to Ann Arbor the following year to open his own shop, he encouraged his fellow Swabians to form their own association. (Wild's tailor shop, like the Schwaben Verein, proved impressively durable—it evolved into a popular campus-area men's store that survived until 1988.)

The Schwaben Verein's official purpose was to provide a primitive kind of mutual health and life insurance: members paid a \$1 initiation fee and 30¢ a month in dues, and in times of need the group would help out with hospital or burial expenses. But from the beginning, the real attraction was the camaraderie. "It was a way to be with people who spoke their language, followed

their customs, who had the same outlook on life," explains president French.

The group's first meeting was held June 22, 1888, on the second floor of Wild's tailor shop. Business was conducted entirely in Ger-

rented rooms above Arnold's Jewelry Store on Main Street.

In 1894, just six years after its founding, the group was financially secure enough to purchase a building, the former Wagner's blacksmith shop on Ashley between Washington and Liberty. All seven members of the executive committee signed the mortgage. They reserved the

had been changing over to professional firefighters, and volunteer companies were phased out.) The park was used for open-air events. "Parades and picnics were memorable occasions," the *Ann Arbor News* reported. "Entire families turned out, the children to enjoy games and sports while their elders talked on and on about the 'old country' and the occurrences in their lives in their adopted land."

Hardware store owner Christian Schlenker, who was president of the Verein at the time, is credited with spearheading the construction of a permanent headquarters. "Entirely due to his persistence and influence, they decided to build the new Swabian Hall," W. W. Florer states in volume 1 of *Early Michigan Settlements* (1941).

The key was a deal between the group and Mack & Co., then Ann Arbor's largest department store, at 220-224 South Main. Walter Mack agreed to rent most of the planned structure, including the two upper floors and part of the basement. Mack, though the son of a German immigrant, was not a member of the Verein ("Mr. Mack was never affiliated with any fraternal organizations but has concentrated his energies and attention upon his business interests and family life," writes Beakes), and he did not help with construction costs. However, he agreed to build a steam heating plant, pay fire insurance for the whole building, and provide water for the sprinkler system.

In May 1914 the blacksmith shop was torn down, and construction began on the new building. Local historian Carol Mull, who has done extensive research on the building, finds it probable that some of the brick from the blacksmith shop was reused in the new building. Architect George Scott designed the Schwaben Halle, and Julius Kornke, a German immigrant who had settled in Ann Arbor in 1890, served as contractor.

Enclosed walkways connected the third and fourth floors with Mack's Main Street store, and the buildings' basements were joined by a tunnel. Mack used the basement for storage and the upstairs for a dining room, a beauty shop (the holes from the plumbing were still there when the Verein sold the building), and a big toy display at

Christmas. The Ashley Street storefront was rented to Hagen and Jedel Men's Clothing.

The Verein reserved the second floor for its own activities. A large front room was used for dancing and banquets; it had a stage at one end for plays and performances. There was a dressing room behind the stage and beyond that the bar and kitchen. Beautiful woodwork, tin ceilings, a fireplace, and a stained-glass front win-

The Story of the SCHWABEN HALLE by Grace Shackman

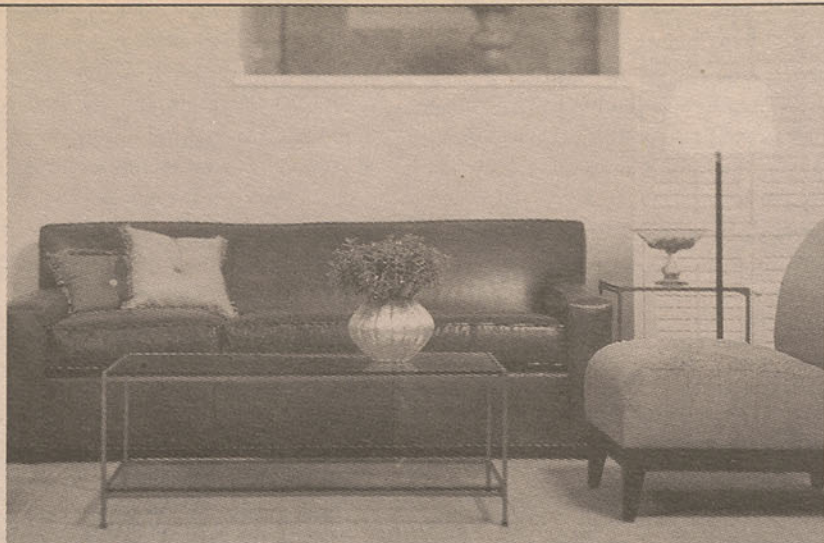


ON THE EVE OF WORLD WAR I, GERMAN AMERICANS BUILT A VIRTUAL PALACE OF ETHNIC SOLIDARITY.

man, a tradition that would continue for nearly a century. Many of Ann Arbor's retail establishments were owned and run by Germans, so as the group grew they easily found other places to meet. They moved from Wild's shop to rooms in Michael Staebler's hotel, the American House (now the Earle, at Washington and Ashley), and when that in turn proved inadequate, to

second floor for their meetings and rented the downstairs to blacksmith Henry Otto (who was better known locally as the leader of Otto's Band).

In 1908 the Schwaben Verein bought a second property: the Relief Fire Company Park, south of Madison and west of what is now Fifth Street, then on the outskirts of the city. (Since 1888 the fire department



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SCHWABEN HALLE *continued*

dow with the Schwaben name on it all added to the hall's beauty. In 1988, to celebrate the Verein's hundredth anniversary, some of the members donated stained glass for the side windows and transoms.

During World War I, when other German groups were fading out or switching to English, the Schwaben Verein kept meeting and didn't experience any overt harassment. "The society subscribed to war loans throughout the war and helped in every deserving war charity brought to its notice," wrote the *Ann Arbor News* in 1922. While admitting a little defensively that the group was "still carrying its German name," the paper insisted that "the organization is essentially American and stands for everything which is American."

The war and subsequent anti-immigrant fervor, as well as Prohibition, cut into the activities of many German groups, but the Schwaben Verein emerged stronger than ever. Helping German war victims from the Württemberg area gave it an additional reason for existing. And although Prohibition lowered attendance at the park, the club met the challenge by selling the land and using the proceeds to help pay off its Ashley Street building.

Member John Hanselmann bought the park and divided it into house lots. The club continued having picnics at Hanselmann's Grove on Waters Road off Ann Arbor-Saline Road or at members' farms, such as Walter Aupperle's property on Frains Lake Road. (The German Park organization on Pontiac Trail is a different group, although there is some overlap in membership.)

In 1922, just eight years after finishing the Halle, the group was able to celebrate paying off the mortgage. "On the eve of Thanksgiving day a gathering of 100 men stood in a darkened room of the Schwaben hall and in hushed stillness watched the mortgage on the building disappear in flames," reported the *Ann Arbor News*. "The flickering light of the flames showed up solemn faces and glimpses of the Star Spangled banner which decorate the room. As the last shred of paper fell and the flame died out lights flooded the room and 100 voices rose in acclamation."

The Verein paid off its mortgage just in time to be ready for the next wave of immigrants. "They came from the very same villages as the

men of the eighties and of former decades," writes Florer. "A revival of interest in plays, concerts, and other social activities began and has continued ever since."

One of the 1920s immigrants was Gottlob Schumacher, who until his death last year was the group's oldest living member. Schumacher first visited the Schwaben Halle three days after his arrival in Ann Arbor in October 1923. Staying at the American House, Schumacher was introduced to a fellow Swabian named Gottlob Gross, who brought him over to the club. In a 1988 interview Schumacher recalled that since it was Sunday the hall was supposed to be closed, so the men went up the back stairs from the alley. They rang a bell, and the barman looked through a sliding window before letting them in. Although it sounds like a scene from a Prohibition-era movie, Schumacher insisted that the bar offered nothing stronger than hard cider—al-

though even that was illegal during Prohibition.

Schumacher officially joined the Schwaben Verein three months later. One of his favorite activities was acting in plays the group wrote and performed in Swabian dialect. Walter Metzger, whose parents immigrated from Swabia, recalls that a huge crowd always attended these plays, put on near Christmas. "They filled up the Schwaben

Halle, sitting in folding chairs and the benches around the side," he says. The programs would consist of two or three short, sitcomlike sketches: "There would be a married couple. They would bicker and make fun of each other," Metzger explains. "Then others would come in—neighbors, relatives. They were humorous. You had to laugh the entire time." In between the plays, the audience could buy sandwiches and beer at the bar.

The cast were all amateurs, just members who enjoyed that sort of thing—Schumacher, Anton Vetter, Hans Meier, Martin Rempp. Bill and Fred Wentz, who worked at Herz Paint Store, did the sets. Bill Staebler, who owned a beauty shop, did the makeup, and members' wives sewed the costumes. Metzger was just a boy then, but he was put to work with his older brother Hans, who could drive, delivering advertising placards to outlying towns such as Manchester and Bridgewater that had large German populations. Metzger also served as a curtain puller and once even had a nonspeaking role.

In 1938 the Schwaben Verein had been in existence for fifty years. One hundred and fifty members and guests celebrated the anniversary at a banquet at the city's

THE SCHWABEN VEREIN'S OFFICIAL PURPOSE WAS TO PROVIDE A PRIMITIVE KIND OF MUTUAL HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE: MEMBERS PAID A \$1 INITIATION FEE AND 30¢ A MONTH IN DUES, AND IN TIMES OF NEED THE GROUP WOULD HELP OUT WITH HOSPITAL OR BURIAL EXPENSES. BUT FROM THE BEGINNING, THE REAL ATTRACTION WAS THE CAMARADERIE.

biggest hotel, the Allene (where the Court-house Square apartments are now). After dinner they reconvened at the hall for a program that included music by the Lyra Männerchor (men's chorus), followed by dancing and a radio program of Swabian folk tunes and songs—broadcast live via shortwave from Stuttgart especially for the occasion.

The plays stopped during World War II, but the group weathered the war, just as it had survived World War I. It no doubt helped that many of the young men leaving to fight the war were themselves of German ancestry. Although local German Americans were firmly on the Allied side, they didn't forget their relatives in Germany. "We had our own CARE program, helping individually in areas we knew about," explains French.

The war triggered one last influx of German immigrants. The Schwaben Verein continued a full schedule of activities, including *Kirchweihe* (literally a church dedication festival, observed as a harvest festival, with strings of radishes, beets, turnips, and cabbage serving as decorations), a children's Christmas party, an anniversary dinner, and the Bockbierfest, featuring a special beer traditionally made for Lent. For years a group of women, headed by Karoline Schumacher,

who was chef at the Old German when she and her husband owned the restaurant from 1936 to 1946, would make and serve such German specialties as liver sausage, roulades, goulash, spaetzle, sauerkraut, and German potato salad. And of course beer was the drink of choice for most events.

German bands from Toledo or Detroit with names like Langecker's Wanderers, Tyrolers, Dorimusikanten, or Eric Nybowler provided the music for dancing. Sometimes the Schuhplattler, a group affiliated with German Park, would perform traditional German dances. For its centennial in 1988, the Verein imported a band from Germany named Contrast.

People who regularly attended these functions became very close. Art French met his wife, then Kathy Rempp, at a Schwaben event. And Kathy's parents, Mina and Martin Rempp (who, like his son-in-law, was a long-term president), met at a Schwaben event in Toledo.

"We still call each other our extended

family," says Marianne Rauer. "We are our own psychiatrists." Fritz Kienzle, the group's flag bearer, once dropped out for three and a half years but missed it so much he went back. "You've got to have that gravy on your potatoes," he explains.

The Schwaben Verein has changed as the local German community has become more assimilated. Originally members had to be from Swabia, but later the group accepted anyone who spoke German. Today, members just have to have some German connection.

Most in the group now are American born, although there are still fourteen Ger-

os. Even the second-floor meeting room was rented out when the Verein wasn't using it. Over the years it's hosted everything from the local Jewish congregation (in the early 1920s) to sports clubs, sister city events, and weddings and other private parties.

French says the group currently has seventy members, of whom twenty or twenty-five regularly attend bimonthly meetings. The average age is about fifty. "Lots join with their dads," explains Harriet Holzapfel, whose husband, son, and father-in-law were all members. "There's an age gap," says Rauer, "but once they are married and have kids they come back. They want their kids to have the Christmas party and family events."

But the group's desire to keep the large

hall waned, especially since the rest of the building wasn't producing the rental income it once had. Art French says he'd been looking for a long time, but "I couldn't get tenants. Everyone wanted to buy—no one wanted to rent." So in March 2001 the Schwaben Halle was sold to Bill Kinley of Phoenix Contractors and Ann Arbor architects Dick Mitchell and John Mouat.

The new owners have removed the fake log-cabin siding from the front of the building and are restoring the facade as closely as

possible to its original look. Inside they are making changes to meet current standards, such as wider, fire-code-compliant stairs and an elevator for handicap access. At press time the new owners were in discussions with several prospective tenants.

Meanwhile, the Schwaben Verein members meet just down the street at Hathaway's Hideaway. "We're still active, still accepting new members, we still have the activities. We just don't have a building," says French. For big events they rent space at either Links at Whitmore Lake or Fox Hills golf course on North Territorial.

Many in Ann Arbor's German community were sad to see a building that encompassed so much of their past sold. "It was like the soul of the German community, such a beautiful place," says Marianne Rauer. But Fritz Kienzle points out that the Schwaben Verein was always more than just a building. "People said when you sell you lose all your heritage," he says. "But the heritage is in you, in your memories."



AT CHRISTMAS THE HALL HOSTED SWABIAN-DIALECT PLAYS. (L. TO R.) GOTTLOB SCHUMACHER, GERTRUDE FLAUTZ, MARTIN REMPP, WILLIAM METZGER, EMMY HEINZLEMAN, AND ANTON VETTER HAM IT UP.

man-born members. "The meetings were mostly in German until about twenty years ago," says French. "There are less and less who can converse in German, so we have to keep translating in order not to keep them out. But we still open and close the meetings in German."

Though the Verein is still officially an all-male group, in the 1970s, with no change in the rules, women started coming to the hall during meetings. Wives of members who drove their husbands to the meetings, or who just didn't want to be left alone at home, came up and waited in the bar area, visiting and playing cards until their husbands finished the meeting and joined them.

After Mack & Co. closed during the Great Depression, the first floor was rented to other tenants, including a bar called Mackinaw Jack's, which left the facade covered with fake logs. Most recently, Hi-Fi Studio, an electronics repair business, packed the space with old TVs and stere-



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Holiday Guide 2002

Our seasonal scouting report from the retail front.

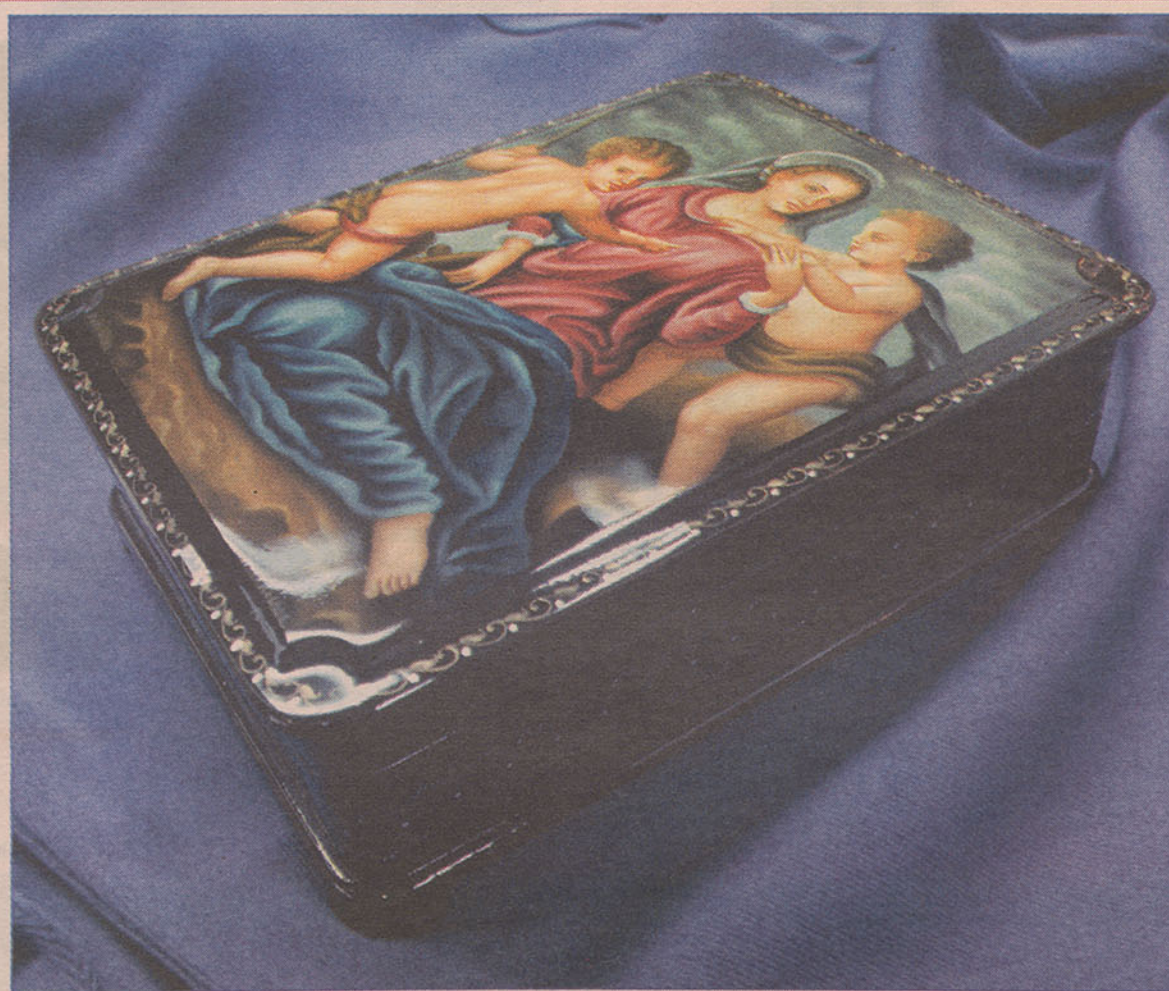
by Laura McReynolds
with Tony McReynolds
Photos by J. Adrian Wylie

When I was younger and hardier, I used to leave gift shopping until the last possible moment. Sometimes the mad rush was exhilarating, but more often it turned the holidays into an experience not unlike shooting rapids in an inner tube: it was hard to stay afloat, navigation wasn't an option, and there was no turning back until I emerged, sputtering and disoriented, into a new year.

Thankfully, with age comes wisdom—or at least diminished stamina. I've found that pacing myself not only does wonders for my mood but also means my recipients get better gifts. Of course, there will always be those for whom circumstance or temperament dictates a last-minute scramble. But even determined procrastinators—and you know who you are—can take heart. While you were still planning your Thanksgiving dinner menu, happily but misguidedly serene in the conviction that you had plenty of time to find great gifts, the Observer and I were in the stores, scoping out this year's selections. Think of us as your advance team.

Did you know the ancient Aztecs used to quaff melted chocolate spiked with blood? I'd prefer a Tanqueray and tonic, but while I sipped it, I'd enjoy perusing the coffee-table book *Chocolate: Riches from the Rainforest*, where you can find this and other, more appetizing chocolate facts. It's \$16 from Main Street's new Chocolate Cafe. If your loved ones would rather eat sweets than read about them, the place also carries truffles, cordials, creams, and caramels, plus Nuts for Michigan, a true-to-your-school selection of chocolate-covered almonds, pecans, and cashews in a maize-and-blue package, \$5–\$10. Those who swear chocolate goes right to their hips might prefer to apply it directly from a tube of Chocolate Indulgence lotion, made with cocoa butter and vitamin E. It's \$8.

Weebles wobble, but even those classic round-bottomed toys might fall down after a



Lacquered box from Russia, at Kerrytown's Princess Designs.

While you were still planning your Thanksgiving dinner menu, happily but misguidedly serene in the conviction that you had plenty of time to find great gifts, the Observer and I were in the stores, scoping out this year's selections.

couple of shots from the egg-shaped schnapps glasses I spotted at Mezzanine, on South Main. They're more wobbly than a Weeble, but they're also beautifully balanced—when you set them down, they roll around in languid circles without spilling a drop. A set of two costs \$49. For wine lovers who hate drinking lukewarm Pinot Grigio, there's a terra-cotta cooler that slips over standard-size wine bottles and keeps whites chilled at the table. It's \$58.

There are more libation-related gifts next door at Jules, where I found some really cool \$10 coasters featuring vintage wine labels, like a 1990 Barbaresco—by all appearances, a particularly good year for coasters. I also liked a lovely leather jewelry box designed for travel (\$44). Available in brown or black and lined with felt, it has a retro look

that suggests transatlantic ocean voyages and berths on the Orient Express.

Help your kids get to know the classics with *Hey, Ludwig!*, a collection of recorded Beethoven piano solos at Generations. For a tape that takes an equally casual approach to the music of Bach, check out *G'Morning, Johann*. Each is \$10. Kids who are into more contemporary tunes will like Gemini's release *Two of a Kind*, a collection of what the Parent Council calls "positive, reassuring, enthusiastic tunes that will soon have children joining in." Generations also has a wealth of good stocking stuffers, including pint-sized Karmann Ghia cars and El Camino trucks, and a six-

inch-long wooden train whistle that sounds exactly like the real thing, all \$5.

A cool \$229 buys you an acoustic guitar starter kit from R.I.T. Drums on North Main, complete with the classic Dreadnought model guitar, gig bag, strings, picks, and a four-hour instructional DVD with play-along tracks. For another fifty bucks you could get an electric guitar starter kit, so budding musicians can plug in headphones and practice all night without driving everyone else in the house crazy.

They call it fool's gold, but the greenish-gray lumps of pyrite I saw at Four Directions

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Roasters of Mountain Country Coffees

Holiday Guide 2002

continued

looked more like silver to me. They're about the size of a Chicken McNugget, and in the Old West con men used to salt mines with them to fool greenhorns into buying worthless property. You can salt somebody's stocking with fool's gold at two for a dollar. For another nifty stocking stuffer, consider shark's teeth fossils. Four Directions has a large collection, they're millions



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Urban Outfitters' monkey-head CD case.

of years old, and they come in all sizes, from tiny teeth the size of a corn kernel (\$1.50) all the way up to the \$150 "boxcar" model—so called because the prehistoric shark it came from was that big.

When desperate, I'll drink coffee out of any old thing I find in the cupboard, but I'm happiest with a vessel that feels right in my hand. The handmade mugs I found at the Clay Gallery fit the bill, with a thumb rest at the top of the handle that feels so right, you'll wonder what you did with your thumb when you were drinking from other cups. Tall and narrow, with a mottled glaze of brown and black, they're \$28.

DogmaCatmantoo, on Fourth Avenue, is the only place in town where you can find Hanukkah gifts for your pets. Whether Fido is Orthodox or Reform, he'll love a gold and blue plush "bone" or plush menorah, \$6.99-\$9.99. Dogma also carries witty paper lamps shaped like dogs and cats for \$35, a \$30 water dish shaped like a studded dog collar, and a \$35 kit that will allow doting pet owners to preserve their four-legged friend's paw print in plaster.

If you know someone who needs reading glasses but is too vain to wear them, consider a pair of stylish, rainbow-hued specs from Collected Works on Detroit Street. They're \$18 to \$24 and come in a range of magnifications. Collected Works also has a terrific selection of women's hats, including a black angora number with a rolled brim for \$38 and a sleek little chapeau that looks like something Zelda Fitzgerald would have worn to celebrate Scott's new publishing contract (\$100).

Next door at Mathilde's Imports, I found gorgeous, surprisingly soft handwoven wool wraps big enough to cover a wearer's torso, for \$149. At the other end of the size spectrum, there are cute, puffy little leather purses about the circumference of a grapefruit, a steal at \$22. The owner told me the size is deceptive: one customer manages to cram a wallet, comb, car keys, cell phone, and a few choice cosmetics into hers.

Kerrytown's Princess Designs features exquisite jewelry made by owner-designer Christy Jones and unusual gift items like imported lacquered boxes from Russia. Rich with medieval imagery, they range from \$30 for pillbox sizes to \$540 for magnificent large painted ones. For a stock-inger stuffer



A sleek chapeau from Collected Works.

It's a tub of preplanted seeds that will grow, with supervision, into either a tiny blue Colorado spruce or a little Japanese maple. The box says that the final shape "will reflect your patience and ability." For the impatient and inept, a better choice might be the Magic Garden, a set of paper flowers that blossom in ten hours when you add water. They're \$6.



with a past, consider an \$8 key chain made of lustrous 900-million-year-old Connemara marble.

No book-lined study should be without a really fine magnifying glass. I found just the thing at Bay Interiors on Detroit Street: a five-inch-diameter, brass-bound glass with an eighteen-inch knurled bone handle and a really nice heft. It's \$150. Also a great conversation piece: an eight-inch sculpture of a frog lifting weights, brass with a faint green cast, for \$42.

For \$12, Urban Outfitters on State Street has a miniature indoor bonsai tree garden.

Urban Outfitters also has a foot-long "Bungee Monkey" with leather helmet and goggles that can soar up to thirty feet when stretched and released (\$10). It works on the same principle as a slingshot, and, while David would be hard pressed to slay Goliath with a Bungee Monkey, don't put the monkey near your ears or eyes when it's fully extended in prelaunch position. I also liked an \$18 monkey-head CD case that holds a dozen discs inside its mouth.

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continued

My chiropractor is always telling me how awful my heavy laptop case and oversize purse are for my spine. If you know someone who lugs around half the contents of her office wherever she goes, get her a set of Ergo Pads (\$10) from Suwanee Springs on East Liberty. They're made to tuck under the shoulder straps of brief-



A gift assortment featuring feathered friends at Wild Birds Unlimited.

cases, satchels, purses, and other heavy carryalls, and they prevent back strain by conforming to the wearer's shoulder. Suwanee also has nifty and affordable leather cases for cell phones (\$20) and handheld computers (\$30). And for the technophobe on your list, a gift idea accompanied by a cautionary tale: I know a college student who once declared that Palm handhelds ruled, and that anyone who used a date book was a moron, because, as everyone knows, "paper is dead!" Two months later I saw her lose a semester's worth of work when her computer crashed and nothing could bring it back to life. The moral: elegant leather-bound note binders, zippered or not, complete with pen, paper, calendar, and address book, make great gifts. They start at \$38.

I had a great time checking out the merchandise at Liberty Street anime shop Wiz-

zywig Collectibles, but since most of the package copy is written in Japanese, I have no idea what most of it was. I saw a Lupin III action figure, an energetic-looking dude with Elvis sideburns astride a green motorcycle with turquoise coat flapping behind him (\$15); CDs by Japanese "Jpop" stars like Puffy, "Japan's trend-setting, million-selling dynamic duo" (\$37); and miscellaneous kitsch, like a My Little Pony cell phone strap (\$10) for the preschooler who needs to keep tabs on her playgroup.

You don't have to be driving a Saab convertible to wear a jaunty lamb shearling driver's cap with fold-down flaps from Van Boven—but it would certainly complete the look. Made in Sweden, it's \$145-plus at the shop in Nickels Arcade. Equally jaunty: a pair of twenty-four-karat white-gold-plated cuff links designed to look like old-fashioned hot- and cold-water faucet handles, \$80.

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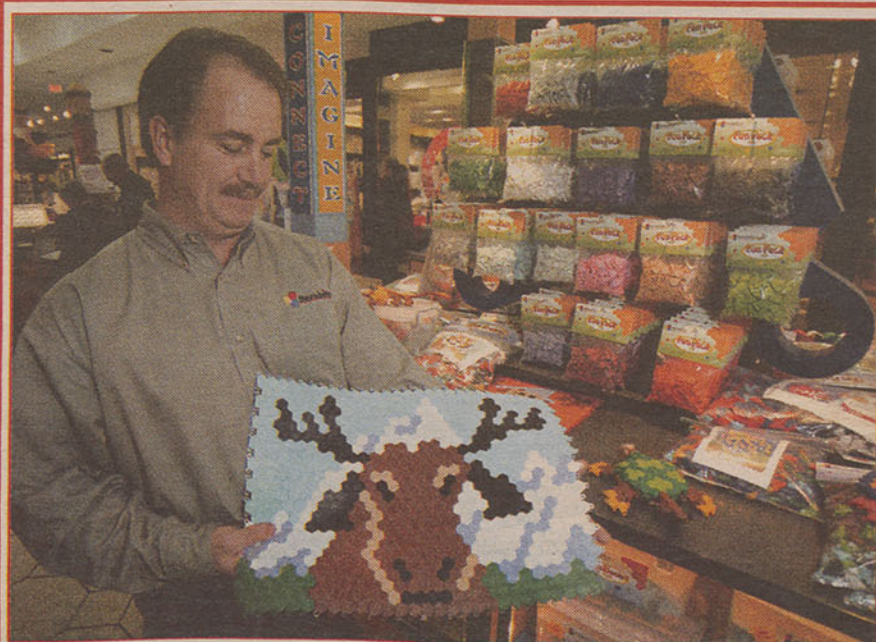


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Ann Arbor's Hexabits can be used to make a moose, or, if you're inclined, a truck bed liner.

Looking for stocking stuffers for the cigar aficionado on your list? Village Corner on South University has single-cigar humidors (\$4) that maintain 70 percent humidity and keep the stogie of your choice fresh for up to thirty days. A good accompaniment: "Cigar Gone," \$1.99, sixty chewable spearmint gel caps that purportedly eliminate cigar, cigarette, and "various other breath odors"—a boon for the smoker as well as for those around him.

For ten bucks, you could get the college student on your list a poster from Beyond the Wall to brighten his or her drab dorm room. The South U store carries a wide range of images from actor Vin Diesel and BMW ads to Big Sur and Sesame Street's Bert and Ernie, as well as that shot of Albert Einstein sticking his tongue out, for which he's probably as well known on campuses as for the general theory of relativity. Don't forget the Poster Putty for \$2.29, a square of gooey stuff that lets you mount and subsequently remove posters without damaging the walls and losing your security deposit.

Just southwest of downtown, Jefferson Market is a baby boomer's paradise of retro gifts like felt beanies with propellers (\$4.95), whoopee cushions (\$1), and inflatable Bozo "bop bags" (\$14.95).

Just southwest of downtown, Jefferson Market is a baby boomer's paradise of retro gifts like felt beanies with propellers (\$4.95), whoopee cushions (\$1), and inflatable Bozo "bop bags" (\$14.95), the next best thing to punching out the real clowns in your life. There are a bunch of irreverent stocking stuffers here, too, including Dirty Girl brand bath powder and Choco-Bar chocolate-scented soap.

New parents will melt over Lenox "Baby's First Christmas" ornaments at Heslop's in the Colonnade. One of them shows a bone china moon with a sleeping tot curled up in the kind of peaceful slumber parents of colicky newborns can only imagine. Older kids and grown-ups alike would be charmed by Swarovski lead crystal figurines, perfectly cut so that each piece shimmers with a rainbow of refracted light. They include animals, boats, Santas, angels, and a set of tiny toy train cars. My favorite was a miniature crystal hedgehog. He's \$85.

Put together a gift assortment for the bird on your list at Wild Birds Unlimited in Woodland Plaza. It has spice-stuffed fabric "mug mats" (\$3.99) that have pictures of birds on the top and give off the scent of cinnamon and cloves when you set a hot cup of coffee on them. Pair one with a matching mug and a bag of certified organic "shade grown" coffee (\$10.50), cultivat-

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Holiday Guide 2002

continued

ed under trees, to keep bird habitats from being cut (partial proceeds go to the American Bird Association).

Novice soccer players love Star Kick, a mesh bag with an elastic strap that attaches to the player's ankle. Put a soccer ball in the bag and you can practice your kicks without worrying that the ball will get too far away from you. It's \$15 at the Soccer Post in Colonial Lanes Plaza. For the soccer mom or dad, consider a soft fleece throw in a black-and-white soccer-ball pattern that combines blanket, pillow, and seat cushion all in one. For \$30, it's the perfect thing to take to the game.

A do-it-yourself doormat probably doesn't sound like much of a gift, but take my word for it, Hexabits are fascinating. The new Ann Arbor-based company's temporary kiosk at Briarwood near JCPenney is regularly jammed with spectators watching the staff assemble sea horses, frogs, spacemen, turtles, and even a full-size American flag out of interlocking hexagonal plastic pieces the size of a nickel. They come in an array of brilliant colors, and you can get a fifty-piece "critter" collection for \$6, or 200 pieces for \$20. (I don't know how many Hexabits you'd need to make a full-size, fully functional bed liner for a pickup truck, but one guy actually did it.)

Type A drivers can work out their road rage with *Need for Speed: Hot Pursuit 2* (\$49.99), one of many PlayStation games at Briarwood's FYE. Players blast through exotic locales in high-performance sports cars, fending off police as well as fellow competitors. The packaging copy crows, "Blatant disregard for the law is the order of the day!"

From time to time, I still find myself singing "Conjunction Junction, what's your function?" under my breath, a sure sign that I spent more of my youth in front of Saturday morning TV than was entirely wise. If you know someone like me, FYE has the *Schoolhouse Rock* thirtieth anniversary DVD, including all the original educational ditties about math, money, government, and grammar, plus new songs, photos, a trivia game, arrange-a-song puzzles, music videos, and commentary from the original creators. It's \$27.99.

Women who travel a lot—and even those who don't—will love the Eileen Fisher washable wool sportswear I saw at Marshall Field's. The collection comes in brown or black and includes mix-and-match sleeveless shell, cardigan, and pants for \$118-\$190. No collar, no buttons, no closures, so it goes on like silk, wears like iron, and packs beautifully in a suitcase. All this and you can throw it in the machine when you're done? I don't know why I wear anything else.

Continued on p. 61

Beautifying the planet one man at a time.

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CARINE LUTZ

Jolly green gifts

Add life to the holidays with plants and flowers

One way to counter the commercialism of the holidays is to give green or flowering living things. There's joy in the choosing, as you finger shining leaves and inhale fresh scents. And beyond the pleasure of giving, you'll know that the recipient will participate in a cycle of nurturing and growth. Spring (and Easter) may be about regeneration, but now is when we celebrate creation and creativity, at the coldest and darkest time of year.

Perhaps this will be your season for extravagance, as you secretly set up your partner—with a glass-shelved greenhouse window for growing herbs and flowers year round. Fingerle Lumber's custom-fitted Weather Shield units start at about \$2,200; look for less pricey off-the-shelf units at local discount home supply warehouses.

The indoor water garden trend is fast moving our way from the southwestern states—and a simple fountain with greenery can be more affordable than you might think. Cecile Green, co-owner of Landscaping for the Heart and Soul, says a \$100 investment can launch a basic tabletop pool with a tiny fountain accented by floating annuals like water lettuce, water hyacinth, and fairy moss. Green will set up the pump and plants for you or provide a gift certificate for her services.

Green calls water gardens "living works of art," a way "to bring some of the outdoors inside, especially when that's where we're going to be for six months. The sound element provides calming serenity, and you can increase the humidifying benefit by adding a misting feature."

Richard Tuttle of Saguaro Nursery & Gardens in Whitmore Lake says the tropical plants that work best in indoor water gardens need an unobstructed southern, eastern, or western window to thrive. "Hardy outdoor pond plants don't work inside," he explains. Tuttle recommends a papyrus-related water plant called umbrella sedge (\$6 to \$40, depending on size) that's well suited to a sunny window's winter light. And if you're looking for a dramatic atmospheric effect, check out his floating lighted fog producer (\$150).

Succulents, cacti, and other desert plants are less challenging to grow indoors, says Tuttle. "They can handle temperature fluctuations and low humidity—

Saguaro's Richard Tuttle, with cacti.

even though a Michigan home with forced-air heat can be drier than the desert." Saguaro has an amazing selection of desert plants starting at under \$5 apiece; you can put together a container garden of spiky, flowering, and cascading specimens for a durable living gift.

Downtown Home & Garden on Ashley stocks bulbs by the hundreds, topping out with what owner Mark Hodesh calls his "biggest and baddest" red amaryllis (\$12.50). "It will dominate a room when it blooms," he assures. You can put together a unique gift of a single glorious bulb and a colored-glass Egyptian rooting vase (\$12 or \$22, depending on size) that hangs decoratively in any window. For a sanity-saving gift of "forced" blooms for darkest February, give large crocus, hyacinth, tulip, and narcissus bulbs planted high in pebble- or soil-filled containers.

Hodesh expects orchids to be a hot seller this holiday season. "They're flowering in early December and will keep blooming for months, and people are realizing a lot of orchids aren't as tough to grow as they once thought," he says. The Downtown Home & Garden greenhouse has orchids in gold, white, pink, and purple hues and in a variety of sizes and prices. Hodesh advises a setting with moderate eastern light, plus regular misting in dry homes.

Standard holiday favorites like poinsettia, Christmas cactus, mistletoe, and Norfolk Island pines are available at most plant retailers in town—including a lot of grocery stores. Don't forget the pleasure provided by small potted evergreen trees—a tradition rooted in winter ceremonies of Druids, Romans, and northern European cultures. Some come already decorated, but remember that potted trees shouldn't be left inside more than three days before being eased back out for replanting. Even jaded adults can be transported by the balsam sweetness and botanical perfection of a Christmas tree in bejeweled captivity.

Plants aren't just for people, as any feisty cat will let you know. DogmaCat-mantoo, Ann Arbor's new pet boutique on North Fourth Avenue, carries \$5.50 tins of wheat grass seeds from Mouthful, Inc. The label says the lush grass will "aid in cat digestion" and give your pets something other than houseplants to chew on. Just put it in a festive container and then set it by Tiger's bowl for a holiday treat.

—Mary Beth Lewis

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Holiday Guide 2002

continued

Basket cases

You can do a lot better than fruitcake

For most people, holiday gift baskets bring to mind apples, oranges, and bruised bananas piled around a fruitcake—a grouping that suggests an industrial conglomeration tied up in a ribbon. But Ann Arbor shoppers can do a lot better than that. Here's a sampler of locally made gift baskets that your in-laws may fight over rather than pass on to their newspaper carrier.

Coleman's Four Seasons Market offers a breakfast basket of high-end jams from Maine's Stonewall Kitchen or Cobble Creek preserves from Santa Fe's People Gotta Eat, along with McCann's steel-cut oatmeal—imported from Ireland—and Vermont Gold gourmet pancake mix, for about \$40. Coleman's holiday baskets, starting at \$20, include German-made cookies, candies, and edible chocolate ornaments. The West Liberty Street market's divided baskets of holiday nuts and candies come shrink-wrapped and decorated with fresh greenery and a bow for \$15-\$20. "We also do a nice job with fruit baskets," says manager Jan Demunnik. "Lots of people still like to give those."

Occasionally Gift Shop, at Main and Liberty, buys most of its products from Michigan manufacturers. "Sweet Michigan Cherry Treats," a \$48.99 basket, includes sugar-coated Sour Cherry Patches and "Boomchuggalugga"—a cherry-flavored soda made by Cherry Republic of Glen Arbor. The tart dried cherries are from Benjamin Twigs in Traverse City, and Mackinac cherry fudge is made at Mackinaw City's Fort Fudge shop. The maple syrup in "Bountiful Michigan" (\$99) comes from the Sugar Shack in Germfask; apple butter from Pefoskey-based American Spoon Foods and sparkling juice from St. Julian's winery in Paw Paw also sit in this top-of-the-line basket. Other Michigan baskets contain brand-name nostalgia, such as Jiffy muffin mix, Vernor's ginger ale, and Sanders dessert topping. Occasionally sells most of these items individually, and owner Linda Brinker will help shoppers select items for customized baskets. She also usually has enough kosher items on hand to make up Hanukkah baskets.

Brazamerica Gift Basket Express in the South Main Market offers the strong coffees and chocolates of owner Rita F. Ribeiro's native Brazil. Some of these items find their way into the baskets she assembles and decorates for all occasions. Holiday arrangements run about \$45-\$75. You might throw in a \$5 pair of earrings made from Brazilian coconut shells or a \$1 bottle of a soft drink made from the guarana fruit, legendary for its healing power (not

to mention its stimulant kick). For the dog on your list, check out Brazamerica's \$25 canine gift set, which includes a hand-painted ceramic bowl, a fleece toy, assorted treats, and breath mints.

Zingerman's overwhelming array of gift boxes covers specialties from farmhouse cheeses to scones. They range in price from \$10 to \$200 and recognize every culinary hot spot on the globe. For example, the \$110 "Tuscan Treat" offers six-year-old balsamic vinegar, Rustichella handmade pasta, and Zingerman's Pae-sano bread, among other items. The Ann



Baskets from Occasionally Gifts feature Michigan-made products.

Arbor Artisans Box (\$80, including overnight shipping) has samples of hand-made cream cheese and other products of Zingerman's Creamery in Manchester. Spices from around the world form \$60 and \$70 gift packages, and you can get a box of hand-raked, organic Portuguese sea salt for \$8. A sour-cream coffee cake, boxed in a round wooden crate, runs \$40 for the fresser (Yiddish for "big eater") size and \$25 for the nosher ("small eater"). Zingerman's sends out between 2,000 and 3,000 of these cakes in December alone, according to mail order managing partner Mo Frechette.

Zingerman's mail order catalog, available at the deli, fully describes all gift combinations and explains shipping costs; you can also find info on-line at zingermans.com. Zingerman's delivers gift boxes locally, as do Occasionally, Coleman's, and Brazamerica.

Containers range from traditional wicker baskets to Zingerman's signature wooden "ZingCrates." Coleman's goes for a natural look with unfinished baskets, shredded cedar, and fresh greenery, while Occasionally's color-coordinated baskets sport bright bows that match the crinkled paper stuffing. If you'd like to build your own holiday collection, you can find four-ounce bags of shredded paper stuffing in a variety of colors for \$2.69 at Arts and Crafts. Baskets alone run \$4 to \$35 at Occasionally, \$6 to \$20 at Coleman's, and up to \$80 at Downtown Home & Garden on Ashley. Home & Garden also sells holiday tins of all shapes, sizes, and colors—perfect for filling with nuts, candies, or cookies. You can choose among tins shaped like Santas, Russian nesting dolls, Fabergé eggs, and even tiny suitcases with toothbrushes and teddy bears painted on the inside. The tins start at \$2.50; most cost \$8 or less.

—Kate Kellogg

Field's also has a festive-looking champagne "bouquet" set: a curvaceous glass cooler shaped like a flower vase with a set of red, orange, blue, green, yellow, and purple long-stemmed flutes. At \$49, it would be a particularly lovely way to toast the new year.

I always thought putting a baby in blue jeans was just a little too precious—until I had a blond, blue-eyed son of my own who happens to look pretty good in denim. The Gap Kids store at Briarwood doesn't sell the adorable denim "starter kit" I found on the company's website, but you could put together your own for \$100, including a classic jean jacket, overalls, a long-sleeved white tee bodysuit, a denim baseball cap, and a pair of white triple-rolled socks, all sized for six months to two years.

The Watch Station, with over 1,500 different styles, makes it easy to find something for almost anyone on your list. I liked a vintage-style pocket watch with cream dial, sun and moon phase window, and metal chain for \$85; a big, beefy-looking unisex Diesel watch with a thick

KB Toys carries all things Harry Potter, including action figures, board games, videos, and the Harry Potter Shrieking Journal, a diary with stickers, metal gel pen, and lock that shrieks if someone tries to open it without the key, just like in the movie.

leather band for \$100; and a fluid, space-age model from sunglasses king Oakley that appears to fly off in four directions at once, for \$250.

The Disney Store carries hundreds of cartoon-theme items that range from the classic (Mickey Mouse watches) to the oddly disconcerting (Mickey Mouse lingerie). If you know someone like my young friend Zoe, whose first words were "Donald Duck," get the Disney Trivial Pursuit game (\$36), with 1,800 questions for adults and for kids as young as six.

KB Toys carries all things Harry Potter, including action figures, board games, collector's cards, videos, a "potion maker" that looks like a kiddie juice machine, and the Harry Potter Shrieking Journal, \$22.99, a diary with stickers, metal gel pen, and lock that shrieks if someone tries to open it without the key, just like in the movie. I was afraid to try it in the store, in case the staff might think I was making away with the merchandise and call security.

My son loves finger painting, but there are days when I just can't face the mess. A better option: the SpectraColor Image Pad, also at KB Toys, for \$20. Luminous colors appear with just the touch of a finger to

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Holiday Guide 2002

continued

the screen, or kids can use the enclosed stylus to make more detailed drawings. When you're ready to clean up, you just turn the thing off. Brilliant!

Grant your loved ones power over Middle-earth with a Lord of the Rings Risk game from Rider's Hobby Shop on Carpenter (\$45). Players age nine and up choose whether to command a good or evil force, and whether to play by classic Risk game rules or add what the box calls special Lord of the Rings twists. Rider's also has the original Risk for \$45, plus a fast-action party game in dubious taste called Who's Your Daddy? in which players bet to pin the paternity of their children on fellow competitors. It's \$7. Rider's also has a spiffy rocket starter set, complete with launch pad, engines, and electric launcher, for \$20. The rockets are sold separately and start at \$5. And for those who can't afford real flying lessons, try a very cool Firebird XL remote-control plane for \$129.

If you live with people whose decoupage, stenciling, or dried-flower-arranging hobby has taken up permanent



Make your own pasta with an Imperia machine from Kitchen Port.

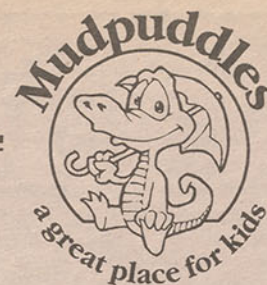
residence at the dining room table, do them and yourself a favor and get them a \$50 Craftspace from Michaels at Arborland. It's sort of like an old-fashioned school desktop, with a flip-up, cleanable work surface and wells to store supplies inside. I also liked colorful two-ounce packets of bakable modeling clay for \$2, and an even better buy, a two-pound package of clay for \$10, perfect for making jewelry or figurines.

Everyone I know who has ever gone to Italy has come back determined to make pasta at home—I guess after you've had the real thing, dried elbow macaroni just doesn't cut it anymore. If you know someone who loves fresh pasta and isn't intimidated by a culinary challenge, you could put together an appropriate gift set at Traver Village's Kitchen Port: an Imperia hand-cranked pasta-making machine (\$47.50), pasta drying rack (\$14.50), turnover press for calzones (\$5.95), ravioli maker (\$13.95), and *The Essential Pasta Cookbook*, \$19.95. If you play your cards right, you'll be invited for dinner.

The Shark CX-50 Quantum SST Ignition System sounds as if it belongs in the arsenal of the Department of Defense, but it's actually a high-tech lighter with its own carrying pouch and rubber grips, available at the Smoker's Depot on Plymouth for \$80. And \$49 buys you a Colibri combination lighter, weather thermometer, and compass, for folks who get lost on their cigarette breaks. At the other end of the price spectrum: the 99¢ SnuffMate, a plastic spittoon the size of a coffee cup with a really wide rim that enables chewers to



The gift of suborbital flight, at Rider's Hobby Shop.



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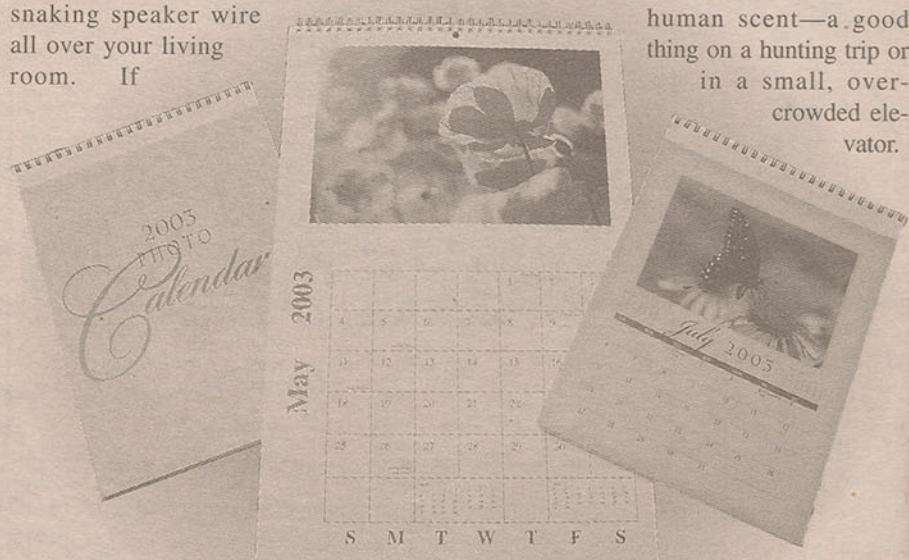
Holiday Guide 2002

continued

hawk and let fly just about anywhere. Maybe a good thing, considering the alternative.

At the Stereo Shoppe on Stadium, in-wall speakers start at \$200, with in-wall volume controls starting at \$60—each an elegant alternative to snaking speaker wire all over your living room. If

sons don't take, you might want to add an \$80 Recover Arrow detection system that helps users find shafts that have gone astray. For a stocking stuffer, consider scent-eliminator body wash and shampoo, each \$7, with an antibacterial formula that eliminates all odors and human scent—a good thing on a hunting trip or in a small, overcrowded elevator.



you've got really deep pockets and want to impress, there are magnificent

B&W speakers, each in a rosewood-stained ash cabinet with a large round metal thing on top that gives it an otherworldly appearance vaguely reminiscent of the robotic daleks on the British sci-fi classic *Dr. Who*. They're \$8,000 a pair.

At Wilderness Archery in Maple Village, a \$10 gift certificate buys the recipient an hour of indoor range time that includes an archery lesson. In case the les-

Foto 1 will turn your photos into a personalized 2003 calendar.

Any true-Blue Michigan fan would love a print from local photographer Joseph Arcure's "Michigan Memories." Available at Foto 1 in Westgate, they start at \$36 for an eight-by-ten-inch matte finish print with a quarter-inch white border to a twenty-by-twenty-four print for \$70. For \$29.95, Foto 1 will take a dozen of your own photographs and turn them into a custom calendar, a great gift for doting grandparents (additional copies are \$24.95).

I can hardly imagine a cooler present than a zippy Malaguti moped from Tutto Moto on Jackson Road, all wrapped with a big bow and tucked beside the tree. But if the \$3,500 price tag is beyond your means, consider a \$90 set of goggles—they come with clear and smoked lenses as well as detachable earpieces and straps, so the recipient can convert them from goggles to conventional sunglasses.

Farther west on Jackson Road, Huron Scuba has terrific gifts for scuba divers and snorkelers for under \$25, including earplugs, ankle weights, hangers for wet suits, books, tank racks, and a magnifying lens for face masks. Know a family heading for the tropics for the holidays? Consider a two-evening snorkeling class, just \$60 per family, including instructional text. Or for \$235 send them to an open-water scuba diving class, complete with equipment rental and multimedia



So you're rich and he's an audiophile? Consider the \$8,000 B&W speakers from the Stereo Shoppe.

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At the turn of the twentieth century, a fresh orange or a stick of licorice would have been a welcome gift. You probably couldn't wow anyone with something like that today, but even the most jaded recipient would get a kick out of unfamiliar foodstuffs from other countries. I did a quick tour of some of Ann Arbor's ethnic markets and found lots of items that would make great stocking stuffers, including pickled lemons from Middle Eastern grocery Aladdin's Market on Packard, shredded and salted dried radishes at Great Land Asian market on Carpenter, and chili-spiced peanuts from Mercado Sabor Latino at Maple-Miller Plaza.

Indian kitchens must be big on the combination of sugar and salt: I found it in lots of snack foods at both Bombay Grocers on Packard and Foods of India on Broadway, where Peak Freen biscuits

Ann Arbor's ethnic markets have lots of items that make great stocking stuffers, including pickled lemons from Aladdin's Market, shredded and salted radishes at Great Lake Asian market, and chili-spiced peanuts at Mercado Sabor Latino.

were marketed with the somewhat strangely worded description "of sugar of salt." Bombay Grocers also has juice boxes in exotic flavors like coconut, litchi, mango, and passion fruit.

I found my favorite stocking stuffer at Lucky Market in the Courtyard Shops, where there's a wide selection of Japanese grocery items with delightfully nonsensical English copy on the packages. They're called Muscat Gummies, and they're lozengelike disks of pale green chewy candy flavored with white muscat grape juice. "Its translucent color so alluring and taste and aroma so gentle and mellow offer admiring feelings of a graceful lady," murmurs the package. That alone is worth the \$2.79 price tag.

Still tempted to put off your own shopping till the last minute? Consider this final word of caution. There are lots of stores open December 24, and some of them are even open quite late. But I know someone whose wife refused to speak to him for a week because one Christmas Eve all he could find open after midnight was a gas station convenience store, and he ended up getting her a set of jumper cables, a travel coffee mug, and a six-pack of Yoo-Hoo. He's been trying to make up for it with outrageously expensive gifts ever since. ■

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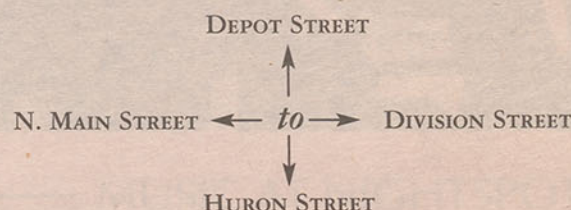
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02/03 UMS Fall Season

December



Handel's Messiah

(Mozart edition)

UMS Choral Union

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra

Thomas Sheets conductor

Janice Chandler soprano

Bejun Mehta countertenor

Dean Elzinga bass-baritone

Fri 12/6 8 pm

Sat 12/7 8 pm

Michigan Theater • Ann Arbor

This holiday season hear Handel's *Messiah* as you've never heard it before. In the past, one composer's revision of another composer's music was considered a form of tribute, rather than grounds for litigation. This year, *Messiah* audiences will hear the work of two great composers: Handel's complete *Messiah*, with additional orchestration — 2 flutes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, and 2 horns — added by Mozart in 1783, some 40 years after the original premiered in Dublin. *Messiah* has been performed annually at UMS since the Choral Union's founding in 1879, and this beloved Ann Arbor tradition kicks off a weekend of holiday concerts.

Presented with the generous support of Carl and Isabelle Brauer.

Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra

Holiday Concert!

Keith Lockhart conductor

with the

University Singers


California State University, Fullerton

John Alexander director

Sun 12/8 6 pm

Crisler Arena • Ann Arbor

The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra takes center court in Crisler Arena on Sunday, December 8 for a special holiday concert. Complete with seasonal music, standard game-time concessions and a guest appearance by none other than Santa Claus himself, this event is the perfect holiday celebration for the entire family.

Sponsored by 

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Forest Health Services presents the 124th Annual Choral Union series.

Emerson String Quartet

Fri 12/13 8 pm

Rackham Auditorium • Ann Arbor

Lauded globally as a string quartet that approaches both classical and contemporary music with equal mastery and enthusiasm, the Emerson String Quartet returns for its tenth UMS concert. With six Grammy awards, including two for Best Classical Album, the Emersons "give playing of exceptional technical accomplishment and an unusually wide expressive range. They continually offer new insights into some endlessly enthralling music. Do hear them." (Gramophone)

PROGRAM

Smetana String Quartet in e minor, Op. 116 ("From My Life") (1876)
Shostakovich String Quartet No. 8 in c minor, Op. 110 (1960)
Schubert String Quartet No. 14 in d minor, D. 810 ("Death and the Maiden") (1824)

Presented with the generous support of Ann and Clayton Wilhite.

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Altan

The Year's Turning

A Traditional Gaelic Seasonal Celebration

With special guests

Laoise Kelly harp

Seamus Begley accordion and vocals

Jim Murray guitar

Step dancers from Kerry

Sat 12/14 8 pm

Michigan Theater • Ann Arbor

"Altan continues to be one of the Celtic world's great treasures, gifted with a front line that is a sheer powerhouse." (*Los Angeles Times*) No Irish traditional band in the last dozen years has had a wider impact on audiences and music lovers throughout the world than Altan. With their exquisitely produced award-winning recordings, ranging from the most sensitive and touching old Irish songs to hard-hitting reels and jigs, Altan is committed to bringing the beauty of traditional music to contemporary audiences. Altan makes its UMS debut with a special seasonal program.

Media Sponsor WDET 101.9 FM.

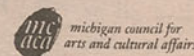


734.764.2538 www.ums.org

outside the 734 area code, call 800.221.1229

UMS TICKET OFFICE LOCATED IN THE MI LEAGUE, 911 N. UNIVERSITY AVE.

Holiday Hours: Ticket Office closes Tuesday, December 24 at 1 pm and reopens Thursday, January 2 at 10 am



DECEMBER EVENTS

We want to know about your event!

Who to write to:

Mail press releases to John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. (There is an after-hours drop box at the front door.) **NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE**, but faxes are welcome or send e-mail to events@arborweb.com. Fax numbers are: 769-3375 or 769-4950. The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available on **arborweb**: <http://www.arborweb.com>.

What gets in?

With few exceptions, events must be within Ann Arbor. Always include the telephone number of a contact person. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by Tuesday, December 10, will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in.

★ Denotes no admission charge.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 SUNDAY

★**Falun Gong Instruction.** Every Sunday. Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. 8:30-10:30 a.m., Gallup Park boathouse (west of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 332-0680.

★**Shorinji Kempo.** Every Sunday. This Japanese self-defense system combines hard and soft techniques with Zen philosophy. 9-11 a.m., Arts in Motion Dance Studio, 2839 Boardwalk. Free to first-time visitors (\$25 monthly dues). 332-1780.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. Every Sunday. This seasonal arts market features a wide variety of local artisans' fine arts and crafts, including jewelry, stained glass, paintings, photographs, clothing, and household items. Craft demonstrations. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Ann Arbor Farmers' Market (Kerrytown). Free admission. 994-FARM.

Southeast Michigan Model Railroad Flea Market and Show: Rails on Wheels. Huge display and sale of vintage and modern model trains and equipment, both scale (exact) and tinplate (approximate). Check out Rails on Wheels' startlingly realistic giant layout buzzing with trains traversing interconnected "modules" of different terrains, including a treacherous mountain, an old-timey town, and a rural creek. Kids can try their hand at running trains on a kids track. Lunch available. If you aren't already a train nut, this event will likely make you one. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. Admission \$3 (children 12 & under, free with an adult). Rails on Wheels annual membership, \$10. 975-4587.

★**"These Precious Days": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship.** Talk by U-M humanities professor emeritus Ralph Loomis. 10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971-8638.

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** Every Sunday. A weekly program open to all single adults age 50 & older interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: program TBA. Also this month: popular local historian Wystan Stevens presents a slide-illustrated talk on "Old Ann Arbor" (December 8), First Presbyterian resident minister Robert Woodruff leads a Bible study (December 15), a program TBA (December 22), and informal socializing (December 29). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466, ext. 43.



Bert Hornback, Dec. 6



Wild Swan Theater, Dec. 13-15

GALLERIES

93 EXHIBIT OPENINGS

Laura Bartlett

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

101 NIGHTSPOTS SCHEDULE

John Hinchey

101 NIGHTSPOTS REVIEW

Joce'lyn B and the Detroit Street Players

Charmie Gholson

EVENTS REVIEWS

71 DICK SIEGEL

Renaissance man

John Lofy

77 A SPIRITUALLY GREAT MESSIAH

Tom Sheets transfigures the Choral Union

James Leonard

80 D. D. JACKSON

Chops and gravy

Piotr Michalowski

87 THE HURON VALLEY

HARMONIZERS Middle America

James M. Manheim

140 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

John Hinchey



Livingston Taylor, Dec. 14



Shemekia Copeland, Dec. 10

★**Newcomers Day:** Karma Thegsum Choling. KTC staff members introduce Buddhist thought and demonstrate basic meditation practices. Refreshments. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761-7495.

★**"Adult Forum": First Unitarian Universalist Church.** December 1, 8, & 15. Today: local attorney Patti Smith discusses "The Helpful Lawyer on Family Law Issues." Also this month: U-M assistant general counsel Jonathan Alger gives an "Update on U-M's Affirmative Action Lawsuits" (December 8), and First Unitarian minister Kenneth Phifer answers questions submitted by congregants in the church "Question Box" (December 15). 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m., First Unitarian Church Sanctuary, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Free. 665-6158.

Silent Meditation: Essence Point. Every Sunday. An unguided 45-minute silent meditation period. All welcome. Noon-1 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Donations appreciated. 741-0478.

★**1st Sunday Hot Sauce Tasting:** Tios Mexican Cafe on Washtenaw. Tios manager Tim Seaver offers samples of the hundreds of hot sauces and salsas available at this popular Mexican diner. Work your way through 100 sauces and you'll get a free T-shirt. Noon-4 p.m., Tios Mexican Cafe, 2224 Washtenaw at Hewitt. Free. 528-4444.

★**Hero Clicks Tournament: The Underworld.** Every Sunday. All invited to play this tactical miniatures board game based on battles between different superheroes. With prizes from the manufacturer, WizKids. Noon-4 p.m., The Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998-0547.

★**Bridge:** Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Sunday. All seniors age 55 & older invited to play bridge. 1-3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

★**"1st Sundays @ 1": Ann Arbor Art Center.** Kids and their parents invited to "Visit Australia" and make an aboriginal dream painting. 1-2:30 p.m., AAC, 117 W. Liberty. Free. 994-8004.

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Every Saturday & Sunday. Museum staff give family-friendly demonstrations on a variety of topics. 1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 219 E. Huron. \$7 (students & seniors, \$5) regular museum admission. 995-5439.

Gays and Lesbians, Older and Wiser. Potluck and social gathering for gays and lesbians age 50 & older. Bring a dish to pass. 1-3 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd., Suite C. \$2. 764-2556.

★**"The Prairie Before Winter": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WC-PARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to examine the park's "remnant prairie"—an original (not planted) prairie possibly thousands of years old. 1 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, Webster Twp. Free (\$3 per vehicle park entrance fee). 971-6337.

★**Lecture Series: Saguaro Rare Plant Nursery.** Every Sunday through December 22. Today: Saguaro co-owner Richard Tuttle discusses "Growing Cacti and Succulents Indoors." Also this month: Tuttle on "Indoor Light Gardening" (December 8) and "How to Grow & Flower Jade Plants" (December 15), and Saguaro staff on "Gift Plants for Gardeners" (December 22). 1 p.m., Saguaro, 470 W. Five Mile Rd., Whitmore Lake. Free. 449-4237.

Open House: Kempf House Museum. Guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, named for the family of German American musicians who occupied it at the turn of the 19th century. 1-4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Admission \$1 (children under 12, free). 994-4898.

Gemini: The Ark. Family concert by this popular acoustic duo that has built a strong following among kids and adults throughout the Great Lakes area. Twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits offer sing-alongs, folk songs from around the world, and upbeat originals about life's simple pleasures, all performed with a boisterous sense of fun on more than a dozen instruments. Today's program showcases songs from their new Parents' Choice Award-winning CD, *The Orchestra Is Here to Play*, a live recording with the Phoenix Ensemble that offers young listeners an accessible way to venture into the world of classical music while enjoying folk songs written just for kids. They are joined today by keyboardist Brian Brill, percussionist Aron Kaufman, and violinist (and Phoenix Ensemble musical director) Gabe Bolkosky. The shows are preceded

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Amy Porter



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Michael Udow

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events/coe.lasso](http://www.music.umich.edu/events/coe.lasso)

- Tuesday, Dec. 3**
8:00 PM
UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & UNIVERSITY CHOIRS • Orchestra Hall
(3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit) • Kenneth Kiesler, conductor. Program will include the first performance since 1940 of James P. Johnson's opera *De Organizer*, newly restored by UM professor James Dapogny, and Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Free tickets are required: call the Orchestra Box Office at 313-576-5111.
- Wednesday, Dec. 4**
8:00 PM
JAZZ LAB ENSEMBLE • Rackham Auditorium • Dennis Wilson, director
With drummer Carl Allen and the Jazz Flute Ensemble.
- Wednesday, Dec. 4**
8:00 PM
FACULTY RECITAL: Amy Porter, Flute • Britton Recital Hall
With Nancy Ambrose King, oboe, and Phillip Bush, piano. Program will include works by Damase, Reinecke, Reál, LeBaron, and Peterson-Berger.
- Thursday, Dec. 5**
8:00 PM
JAZZ ENSEMBLE & LATIN JAZZ COMBO • Rackham Auditorium • Ellen Rowe, conductor
Program will include works by Roland Vazquez, Neil Slater, Bobby Streng, and Bob Brookmeyer.
- Thu.-Fri., Dec. 5-6**
5:00 & 8:00 PM
OPERA WORKSHOP • McIntosh Theatre
5:00 PM: *The Marriage of Figaro*, performances from Act II
8:00 PM: *La Tragedie de Carmen*.
- Thu.-Sun., Dec. 5-8**
8:00 PM/2:00 PM Sun.
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE: Hamlet by William Shakespeare • Power Center
Philip Kerr, director; Mark Lamos, codirector • Murder and revenge—the complex tale of a son's dilemma. Tickets are required and are available at the League Ticket Office or online at www.theatre.music.umich.edu/uprod/uprod.html for \$20 (center orchestra/balcony) and \$15 (side orchestra/balcony); students \$8 with ID. For more information, call (734) 764-2538.
- Saturday, Dec. 7**
4:00 PM
EARLY MUSIC ENSEMBLE • Blanche Anderson Moore Hall • Edward Parmentier, director.
- Saturday, Dec. 7**
8:00 PM
CONTEMPORARY DIRECTIONS ENSEMBLE • Britton Recital Hall
Jonathan Shames, artistic director • A program of music by Stephen Hartke, visiting composer from the University of Southern California.
- Sunday, Dec. 8**
3:00 PM
SYMPHONY BAND • Michigan Theater • Michael Haithcock, conductor
With Timothy Reynish, president of the World Association of Symphonic Band and Wind Ensembles (WASBE), guest conductor; and Diana Gannett, double bass soloist. Program will include David Dzubay's "Myaku," Nicolas Maw's "American Games," Grainger's "Colonial Song" and "Gumsucker's March," excerpts from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Charles Rochester Young's Concerto for Double Bass and Wind Ensemble, Jean Francaix's "Mozart's 'new look' for Double Bass and Wind Ensemble," and Florent Schmitt's "Dionysiaques."
- Sunday, Dec. 8**
8:00 PM
PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE • McIntosh Theatre • Michael W. Udow, director
With Thomas Siwe, professor emeritus University Illinois, guest conductor; and UM jazz faculty members Donald Walden, saxophone; and Marion Hayden, double bass. Program will include works by Hovhaness, Chavez, Cowell, and two world premieres for percussion and jazz ensemble by UM professor Roland Vazquez.
- Monday, Dec. 9**
4:40 PM
BRASS STUDIOS RECITAL • Britton Recital Hall
Featuring the students of the brass studios.
- Monday, Dec. 9**
8:00 PM
UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA • Michigan Theatre • Jonathan Shames, conductor
Program will include Schubert's Symphony no. 1 and selections from Smetana's *Ma vlast*.
- Tuesday, Dec. 10**
7:00 PM
SLAVIC LITERATURE CLASS RECITAL • Britton Recital Hall
Program will include songs of Czech and Russian composers. Featuring the students of Timothy Cheek and Martin Katz.
- Wednesday, Dec. 11**
8:00 PM
UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & UNIVERSITY CHOIRS • Power Center
(3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit) • Kenneth Kiesler, conductor. Program will include the first performance since 1940 of James P. Johnson's opera *De Organizer*, newly restored by UM professor James Dapogny, and Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

For details concerning above events, please refer to the Calendar of Events in the *Ann Arbor Observer*, check the School of Music Events Web site at www.music.umich.edu/events/coe.lasso; or call the School of Music Events Hotline at 734-763-4726 or the School of Music Information Office at 764-0583. Events are free and wheelchair accessible unless otherwise specified. The E.V. Moore Building houses Britton Recital Hall, McIntosh Theatre, and Blanche Anderson Moore Hall. The Moore Building and the Stearns Building are located on Baits Dr., North Campus (US 23 to Plymouth Rd., Plymouth to Broadway, Broadway to Baits).

1 SUNDAY EVENTS continued

by an "instrument petting zoo," with instruments from Oz's Music. A portion of the proceeds go to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at U-M Mott Children's Hospital, where Sandor's daughter was born. 1 & 3 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$7 in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**27th Annual Kiwanis Christmas Sing: Western Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor.** More than 500 people usually attend this family-oriented event. Kiwanis members Jeff Crause, Charlie Phibbs, and Mike Fedel lead the audience in a sing-along of favorite Christmas carols. Organ accompanist is Andrew Rogers. Also, a visit from Santa and guest performance by the Huron Valley Harmonizers (see 7 Saturday), a popular local barbershop chorus. Emcee is Kool 107 radio personality Lucy Ann Lance. All invited to come early at noon and help the Michigan Theater decorate its Christmas tree: free cider & doughnuts. 1:30 p.m., *Michigan Theater*. Free. 668-8397.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Detroit. 2 p.m., *Crisler Arena*. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

★**Trail Tour: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** A docent leads a nature walk over some of Matthaei's extensive outdoor trails. 2 p.m., *Matthaei*, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 998-7061.

★**Artists Coalition Creative Group: Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project.** Artists, writers, poets, and musicians invited to discuss and share their work. 2 p.m., *WRAP office*, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 995-9867.

★**Guild Day: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to meet local neopagans and sit in on meetings of their Magicians (2-3 p.m.), Healers (3-4 p.m.), and Warriors (4-5 p.m.) guilds. The topic for the Magicians Guild meeting is "Runic Meditation." Followed by discussion. 2-5 p.m., 263 *Larkspur* (take Pontiac Trail north & turn left onto Skydale, left onto Cloverdale, & right onto Larkspur). Free. 487-4931.

★**Waxing Party: Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.** All invited to meet club members, learn about upcoming social activities and trips, and get your skis ready for the season. Some wax provided. Followed by a walk or ski (4 p.m.) and a potluck (bring a dish). 2 p.m., 2582 *Stommel Rd.*, Ypsilanti (take Geddes east to north on LeForge; turn east on Vreeland & north on Stommel). Free. 662-SKIS.

★**"Kerry Tales: Home Again with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., *Workbench Furniture*, Kerrytown. Free. 769-3115.

★**"Beethoven Birthday Bash": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra.** Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra in an all-Beethoven program that includes Symphony no. 3 (*Eroica*), the *Leonore* Overture no. 3, and his Concerto no. 3 for Piano and Orchestra. Piano soloist is Rebecca Eller. 2 p.m., *Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg.*, Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. \$10 (students & seniors, \$8) in advance & at the door. 485-2947.

★**"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company.** Every Wednesday-Sunday, September 26-December 21, plus Tuesday, December 17. Guy Sanville directs the world premiere production of Purple Rose founder Jeff Daniels's first new play since 1998. The poignant, dreamlike tale shows a woman near death who meets people from her past, tenderly reenacting old encounters or fantasizing alternate scenarios. The scenes accumulate a fabric of loving connections that reveals a much richer life than she'd ever realized. Cast: Sandra Birch, Michelle Mountain, Inga Wilson, and Will Young. 2 & 7 p.m., *Garage Theater*, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$22.50 (Wed. & Thurs.), \$27.50 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), \$32.50 (Fri., Sat., & Sun. eves.) in advance & at the door. 433-ROSE.

★**"Man of La Mancha": Performance Network Professional Season.** Every Thursday (except November 28) through Sunday, November 21-December 22. The always inventive Malcolm Tulip directs an unconventionally intimate production of Dale Wasserman, Mitch Leigh, and Joe Darion's popular musical adaptation of Cervantes's *Don Quixote*. The action—which focuses on the visionary foolishness of Quixote's pursuit of Dulcinea—is presented as a play-within-a-play. An imprisoned Cervantes, as a defense against trumped-up charges brought against him by his fellow prisoners, has them act out a story he has made up. Stars Robert Grossman, Naz Ed-

wards, and Aral Gribble. With onstage musicians. 2 & 7 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$27.50 (seniors, \$24) on Fri. & Sat. and \$22.50 (seniors, \$19) on Thurs. & Sun. in advance by reservation & at the door. Student rush tickets (\$12 Fri. & Sat., \$10 Thurs. & Sun.) available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663-0681; to charge by phone, call 663-0696.

"Charitable Giving for the Holidays": Vegetarian Information Network & Exchange. Brief talks by representatives from the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, SASHA Farm Animal Sanctuary, and other local organizations that promote peace and/or cruelty-free living. Preceded by a vegan (no dairy, egg, or honey) potluck. Bring a dish to pass (with recipe), serving utensil, plates, cutlery, and cup. 2:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. \$1 (members, free). 428-3426.

***Ann Arbor-Motown Hash House Harriers.** Every Sunday & occasional Mondays. The local chapter of an unorthodox running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's task is to follow a trail designed to be confusing. The usual result is that the lead (i.e., fastest) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer and pop hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant. 3 p.m. (Sun.) & 6:30 p.m. (Mon.), location TBA. Free. Weekly locations available at my.voyager.net/~tashjian.

***14th Annual Day Without Art: U-M Museum of Art.** December 1 & 2. In recognition of World AIDS Day, the museum drapes a number of works in black mourning cloth to acknowledge the wealth of creativity lost because of the severe impact of AIDS on the international arts community. Related events: a concert (see below), talks by Visual AIDS founder Robert Atkins today (time TBA) and on December 5 (see listing), and a poetry reading at noon on December 2. 3 p.m. (Dec. 1), noon (Dec. 2), UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764-0395.

Steve Forbert: The Ark. This folk-rock singer-songwriter from Meridian, Mississippi, took New York City by storm in the mid-70s with his neo-Dylan-esque blend of rough-mannered plain talk and romantic self-mythologizing. He's still best known for the songs on his early LPs, *Alive on Arrival* and *Jackrabbit Slim*, but his 90s CDs, *The American in Me* and *Streets of This Town*, have earned him greater critical favor as a deft chronicler of ordinary lives. He recently released *Any Old Time*, a collection of convincing covers of classic songs by fellow Meridian native Jimmie Rodgers. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Weekly Meeting: U-M Ballroom Dancers. December 1 & 15. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by lessons and practice. 8-10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom (Dec. 1) & Michigan League Ballroom (Dec. 15). \$2. 763-6984.

Ron Fracker Memorial Benefit Concert. Varied program of traditional and classical music performed by Fracker's brother, occasional Metropolitan Opera tenor Richard Fracker. Also, musical theater numbers performed by Washtenaw Community College students, and organ music by Ed Maki-Schramm and Tim Huth. Proceeds benefit the U-M HIV/AIDS Treatment Program. Preceded by a church service (6 p.m.) and reception (7:30 p.m.). 8 p.m., First Congregational Church of Christ, 218 N. Adams at Emmet, Ypsilanti. Donation. 764-5191.

***"Timmy P Comedy Show": Goodnite Gracie.** Every Sunday. Each week 7 different local and area comics compete for cash prizes. The winner is chosen by the audience. 9-11 p.m., Goodnite Gracie, 301 W. Huron. Free. 623-2070.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "A Christmas Carol" (Edwin Marin, 1938). December 1 & 4. Heartwarming version of the classic Dickens story about Scrooge's conversion. Reginald Owen, Gene Lockhart, Terry Kilburn. \$5. 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Far From Heaven"** (Todd Haynes, 2002). December 1-5. In a candy-colored 50s suburban paradise, a husband confesses to his wife that he is gay, and she seeks solace with her African American gardener. Julianne Moore, Dennis Quaid, Dennis Haysbert. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"8 Women"** (Francois Ozon, 2002). December 1-3. Delightful, upbeat murder-mystery musical about 8 women and a corpse snowbound in a cottage. Danielle Darrieux, Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

ine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

2 MONDAY

***Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** Every Monday. All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. Leslie Austin directs. 10-11:45 a.m., West Side Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to first-time visitors (\$40 per semester membership dues). 677-0678, 663-5907.

***Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** Every Monday. Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, Bible study and chair exercises. Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch (\$1) and socializing. 10 a.m.-noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668-8353.

***Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** Every Monday. Activities begin at 11 a.m. with "Fitness Fun" (\$3), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. The weekly program also includes meetings of the Writing Group (1 p.m.). All invited. 11 a.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

***Brown Bag Talks: U-M Population Studies Center.** December 2 & 9. Talks by U-M and visiting history professors. Today: Robert McCaa (University of Minnesota) on "IPUMS International: Integrating and Calibrating Census Microdata." Also this month: Myron Gutmann (U-M) on "Heat, Elevation, and Migration: Two Population-Environment Regimes in the Great Plains of the United States" (December 9). Noon, PSC, 311 Maynard (next to Borders). Free. 998-7275.

***Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops.** Every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday except December 25. All invited to pick one of 40 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, and play it on the 17-bell tower's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Local chimemasters Norm Roller (Mondays) and Heather O'Neal (Wednesdays and Fridays) demonstrate. Noon, Kerrytown. Free. 662-5008.

***"The Scientist's Body: The Nature of a Woman Philosopher in Enlightenment Italy": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Talk by Stanford University Italian history professor Paula Findlen. Followed by reception. 4 p.m., 1644 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-9537.

***"Seals in the Service of Empire: Evidence from the Persepolis Fortification Tablets": U-M Near Eastern Studies Colloquium.** Talk by U-M history of art professor Margaret Root. 4 p.m., 3050 Frieze, 105 S. State. Free. 764-0314.

***"Nursing's Image as Portrayed and Shaped by Social Ephemerata: Artifacts of Popular Culture": U-M Nursing History Society.** Power Point talk by Linda Strodman, who also displays some artifacts. Preceded by a 5:15 p.m. potluck (bring a dish to pass and place setting). All invited. 6 p.m., 1334 School of Nursing, 400 N. Ingalls. Free. 434-0266.

***Helmut Jahn: U-M Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.** Talk by this German-born Chicago-area architect known for dramatic, visually arresting, at times overwhelming building designs such as Chicago's mirrorlike Xerox Center and the shimmering modern addition to the city's Art Deco jewel, the Chicago Board of Trade. 6 p.m., Art & Architecture auditorium, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764-1300.

***The Buyer's Agent.** December 2 & 16. Real estate professionals lead discussions on first-time home buying. Today: "Buying a Home Without Losing Your Shirt." Also this month: "All About Mortgages for First-time Buyers" (December 16). 7-8:30 p.m., The Buyer's Agent, 1900 W. Stadium. Free. Preregistration required. 662-6240.

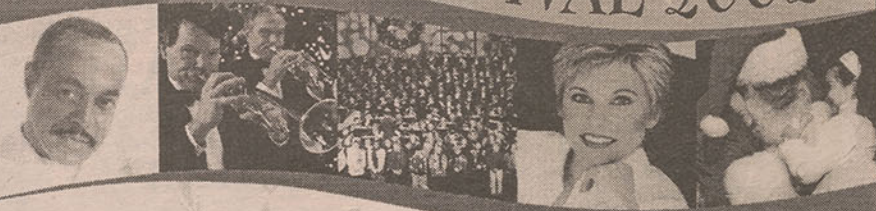
***Weekly Meeting: Avis Farms Toastmasters.** December 2, 16, & 30. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday (see listings). 7-9 p.m., 900 Avis Dr., conference room B, off S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: \$18 every 6 months (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 332-1200.

***Huron Valley Toastmasters.** Every Monday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner in the cafeteria. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). 7-9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. Dues: \$48 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 663-1836.



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Sun., Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.



Peabo Bryson, Jody Watley,
Oleta Adams, Jon Secada

AT&T presents
**CHRISTMAS WITH THE
CANADIAN BRASS**
Mon., Dec. 9 at 8 p.m.
(the DSO does not appear on this concert)



LEAR... presents
HANDEL'S MESSIAH
Michigan State University Chorale
Fri., Dec. 13 at 8 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 14 at 3 p.m.



**BEST OF THE
KING'S BAROQUE**
Thur., Dec. 12 at 8 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 13 at 1:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 14 at 8:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 15 at 3 p.m.



DTE Energy Foundation
JOY! A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
Highland Park Baptist Church of Southfield Chancel Choir
Southfield Madrigal Choir
Thu., Dec. 19 at 1:30 & 8 p.m. / Fri., Dec. 20 at 8:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 21 at 8:30 p.m. / Sun., Dec. 22 at 3 & 7 p.m.

The Detroit News
**YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS:
A HOLIDAY STORY**
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National City presents
NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA
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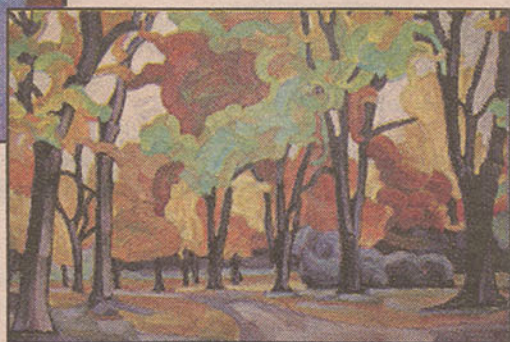
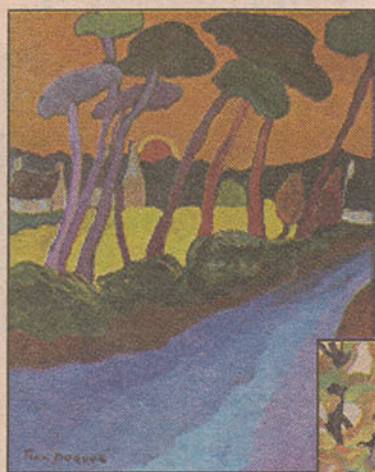
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2 MONDAY EVENTS continued

"Tips for Surviving the Holidays": Women's Center of America. Talks by center social workers Joan Kauffman and Allison Rodenhouse. 7 p.m., Women's Center, 2425 Stadium. Cost TBA. 973-6779.

"Messages for the Millennium": Crystal Clear Expressions. Psychic Nanci Rose Gerler channels empowering spiritual messages from various masters, guides, and angels. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore meeting room, 114 S. Main. \$15. Reservations requested. 996-8799.

Auditions: Washtenaw Community College Musical Theater Program. December 2 & 3. All invited to try out for a spot in a February 27-March 2 production of Blake Edwards' racy comedy *Victor/Victoria*. 7 p.m., WCC Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 395-4630.

Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Music provided; bring your own music stand. 7-9 p.m., Clonlara School, 1289 Jewett (between Packard & South Industrial). Free to first-time visitors (\$30 annual dues). 769-1616.

Ann Arbor Smocking Group. Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in the English art of embroidery known as smocking and in heirloom sewing. All invited. 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663-7867.

Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus. Every Monday. Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. Free. 973-6084.

"Aut" Social Group for Professional Lesbian Singles and Friends. All professional lesbian singles invited for an evening of socializing. 7:30 p.m., Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct. Free (pay for your own snack). 747-7322.

Dick Siegel: The Ark. See review, right. This veteran local singer-songwriter is an immensely gifted and versatile composer whose songs offer all sorts of immediate pleasures, both serious and comic, as well as a resonant staying power. He was one of the winners of the prestigious songwriting competition at the 1991 Kerrville (Texas) Folk Festival, and a later Kerrville performance provoked *Austin Chronicle* reviewer Steve Brooks to single him out as the "most musically sophisticated of the new folkies." His early hits like "Angelo's" and "What Would Brando Do?" still get lots of Michigan airplay, and his national reputation has gotten a big boost from his 1995 CD *Angels Aweigh*. Tonight he celebrates the release of his long-awaited new CD, *A Little Pain Never Hurt*, which Siegel recorded in Nashville. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Monday. Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. 9-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$5 team fee. 665-2968.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "After the War, Before the Wall" German Film Series. "Roses Bloom on the Grave in the Meadow" (Hans Koenig, 1952). December 2 & 3. This acclaimed film is a dark, brooding tale about an ogrelike farmer who traps and rapes a girl. German, subtitles. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "Far From Heaven" (Todd Haynes, 2002). See 1 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. "8 Women" (Francois Ozon, 2002). See 1 Sunday. Mich., times TBA.

3 TUESDAY

2-Year-Old Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. December 3, 5, 10, & 12. Stories, rhymes, and songs for kids ages 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). Note: These storytimes are also offered at the West Branch 9:30-10 a.m. & 2-2:30 p.m., December 3 & 10; and at the Loving Branch, 4-4:30 p.m., December 3 & 10, and 10-10:30 a.m., December 4, 5, 11, & 12. 9:30-10 a.m. (Tues. & Thurs.) & 4-4:30 p.m. (Tues.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

"Holidays Around the Globe": Newcomers Coterie Club of Ann Arbor. Talk by a speaker TBA. Bring a holiday dish to share for a breakfast brunch. All women who have recently moved or returned to the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area invited. 9:30 a.m., Ann Arbor Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 944-4674.

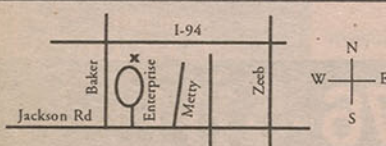
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singer-songwriters

Dick Siegel Renaissance man

According to his new album, *A Little Pain Never Hurt*, local singer-songwriter Dick Siegel wants to be remembered as a "real Renaissance man." He also wants "to be six thick strips of Canadian bacon."

How he'll manage the bacon part is a mystery—but Siegel is a Renaissance man already. He's been a vibrant presence in the local music scene for some twenty-five years, playing quick-witted songs that would sound equally at home in a Chicago blues bar, a Nashville two-step joint, or a college-town coffeehouse. His style careens through folk, bluegrass, old-time country-western, Texas swing, and rockabilly—sometimes melding all these influences in the same song.

To record *A Little Pain Never Hurt*, Siegel went to Nashville—the home, he says, of the world's best stringed-instrument players. Thanks to the band he assembled, the new album twangs and chimes with mandolins, fiddles, steel guitars, even bouzoukis. The songs have a fresh, clean polish, and Siegel's tenor has never sounded clearer.

Siegel shows his greatest talent as a lyricist in his ability to spin tales from the parts of life the rest of us take for granted. He breathes new life into the ordinary and the clichéd. "Skin," a bouncy love song, celebrates the skin that "keeps us apart / and so close together." "Starlight Rodeo" is about the "rage and fear" of insomnia, when "your mortal heart will pound" like the hooves of bulls. The album's highlight may be "Joshua," a lovely song of maybe-required love that draws from the story of the biblical hero who trumpeted down Jericho's walls.

Siegel has always been funny, and in this album the humor is often hooked to ebullient stories of love and lust. In "The Captain's



J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

Daughter" Siegel bursts with giddy pride as he recounts "singing and making love on top of the water" in a sailboat. And in "I Wanna Be" he proclaims his desire to be *everything* for his lover: an astronaut, a "no-good outlaw viper varmint," a Renaissance man, Cool Hand Luke, a "hip-shaking tongue"—and Canadian bacon for her to eat.

There's a lot of love and lust and happiness brimming from this album. These sound like the songs of a happy man who wants to share his joy.

Dick Siegel unveils *A Little Pain Never Hurts* in a CD release show at the Ark on Monday, December 2.

—John Lofy

★**"Holiday Foods, Fun, and Surprises":** St. Joseph Mercy Health System "Senior Health Day." Seniors invited to enjoy some relaxing holiday fun, with games, prizes, and healthy, delicious food samples. 9:30–11:30 a.m., Health Stop, Briarwood mall. Free. Preregistration required. 827-3777.

9th Annual Conger Holiday Art Market: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. Sale of works by area artisans, including jewelry, handmade stationery, knitwear, pewterware, Christmas decorations, and more. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. Also, the Conger Group hosts its annual "Holiday Home Tour" today (see below). 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Barton Hills Country Club, 730 Country Club Rd. \$5 admission. 662-2077.

Holiday Home Tour: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. A tour of 4 area homes, all within a short drive of one another, spectacularly decorated for the holidays by professional designers. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. Ticket includes admission to the Holiday Art Market (see above). 10 a.m.–8 p.m., various locations. Tickets \$15 in advance at Heslop's, Back Alley Gourmet, Downtown Home & Garden, and Nicola's Books; \$20 at the holiday art market and tour homes. 662-2077.

★**Vigil for Peace: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** All invited to gather for a peaceful response to the events of 9/11. Noon–1 p.m., Federal Bldg., Liberty between Fourth & Fifth aves. Free. 663-1870.

★**Jewish Older-Adults: Jewish Community Center.** Every Tuesday except December 24 & 31. All seniors invited to play mah-jongg (noon–2 p.m.) and/or join the ABC Quilters (1–3 p.m.) to make quilts for HIV-infected babies. Noon–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

★**"Female Mobility at the Qing Court":** U-M Center for Chinese Studies Brown Bag Lecture. Talk by U-M Chinese history professor Mark Elliott. Bring a bag lunch; cookies & coffee served. Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6308.

★**Brown Bag Lecture: U-M Institute for the Hu-**

manities. December 3 & 10. Bring a bag lunch. Today: "Letters from the Wilderness: New Orleans, the Enlightenment, and the Colonial Picaresque," a talk by U-M anthropology and history grad student Shannon Dawdy on the mixture of Enlightenment curiosity about the New World and fantasies of roguish adventures in the colonial wilds revealed in letters and other epistolary writings from French colonial Louisiana. Also this month: U-M music theory and women's studies professor Nadine Hubbs on "Sanctioning a Stereotype; or, It Turns Out, in the 20th Century 'Musical' and 'Queer' Were Fairly Interchangeable" (December 10). Noon, Michigan Union Kuenzel Room. Free. 936-3518.

★**"Like a Complete Unknown: The Poetry of Bob Dylan's Songs, 1961–1969":** Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party. Observer calendar editor John Hinchey is on hand to sign copies of his recently published critical study. "It's pretty much everything you never wanted to know about Dylan's songs but were afraid someone was going to go ahead and tell you anyway," Hinchey confesses. Refreshments. 4–6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

★**"Giving Birth like a Girl":** U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender. U-M sociology professor Karin Martin discusses stereotyped self-images that induce women to try to act like "good girls" during labor, despite agonizing pain. 4–5 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall. Free. 764-9537.

★**"The Baltimore Ecosystem Study":** U-M Environmental Management Unit (Natural Resources Department). Talk by University of Vermont Gund Institute for Ecological Economics director Robert Costanza. 4–5:30 p.m., Michigan League Koessler Room. Free. 615-6431.

★**"Repatriation Battlefields: Performing Scholarship under the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act":** U-M Atlantic Studies Initiative. Talk by Denver Art Museum repatriations coordinator Roger Echo-Hawk, a Pawnee tribal historian who has worked to gather and preserve recorded oral history and other materials pertaining to Pawnee origins and history. 4–6 p.m., 2609 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 936-6480.

Here and There New Work by Greg Sobran



"View of Harbor Springs" Watercolor on Paper 22"x30"

Greg Sobran presents his annual show opening Saturday, Dec. 7th through Dec. 22nd at his schoolhouse studio from 11 am to 8 pm daily. New paintings will include oils and watercolors from recent trips to Maine, France, Key West and Northern Michigan.

Studio is located just SW of Ann Arbor on the corner of Ellsworth and Wagner Rds.

For further information, call (734) 996-0406
On the web: www.sobrangalleries.com



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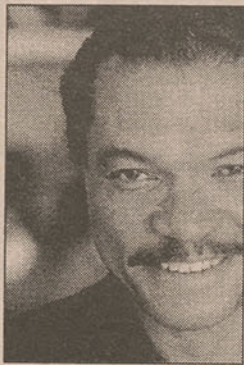
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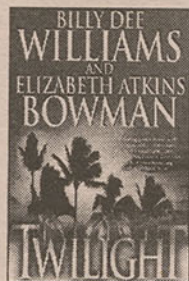




DECEMBER EVENTS @ Ann Arbor District Library



Award-winning actor **Billy Dee Williams** and acclaimed author **Elizabeth Atkins Bowman** will make a rare, special appearance at the Library on **Friday, December 13** to discuss their careers and collaboration on the romantic thriller *Twilight*.



Tuesday Dec. 3
7:00 - 8:00 pm

How Do I Begin? Science Fair Ideas
with a local scientist (for ages 11-14)
Northeast Branch

Wednesday Dec. 4
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Starting a Small Business: Internet & Other Resources
Main Library Training Room — To register, call 327.8367

Wednesday Dec. 4
7:00 - 8:00 pm

How Do I Begin? Science Fair Ideas
with a local scientist (for ages 11-14)
West Branch

Thursday Dec. 5
7:00 - 8:00 pm

How Do I Begin? Science Fair Ideas
with a local scientist (for ages 11-14)
Loving Branch

Thursday Dec. 5
7:30 - 8:30 pm

Cover to Cover Book Discussion
Eva Moves the Furniture by Margot Livesey
West Branch — To register, call 327.4200

Saturday Dec. 7
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friends of the Library Book Shop Holiday Sale
Main Library — Friends Book Shop

Saturday Dec. 7
2:00 - 3:00 pm

How Do I Begin? Science Fair Ideas
with a local scientist (for ages 11-14)
Main Library Multi-Purpose Room

Tuesday Dec. 10
12:10 - 1:00 pm

Booked for Lunch — Art historian **Megan Holmes**
discusses her book *Fra Filippo Lippi: The Carmelite Painter*
Main Library Multi-Purpose Room

Wednesday Dec. 11
7:00 - 8:30 pm

CSI: Ann Arbor — Crime Solving Techniques
with **Sergeant Richard Kinsey**
Main Library Multi-Purpose Room

Friday Dec. 13
7:00 - 8:30 pm

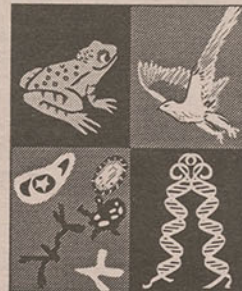
Special Author Appearance by actor/author **Billy Dee Williams** and author **Elizabeth Atkins Bowman**
Main Library Multi-Purpose Room

Friday Dec. 27
10:00 - 10:30 am

Silly Stories for All Ages with **Laura Pershin Raynor**
Main Library Youth Story Room

Friday Dec. 27
2:00 - 3:00 pm

Catch The Winter Sun
Create Your Own Colorful Mobile (for ages 3 and up)
West Branch — To register, call 327.4200



★**"Israeli Public Opinion: From War to Peace and Back Again":** U-M International Institute. Talk by CCNY political science professor Asher Arrian, a former president of the Israel Political Science Association. 4-6 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 936-6510.

★**Ann Arbor FrontRunners.** Every Tuesday & Thursday. Gay, lesbian, and straight runners and walkers invited to choose a distance of 3-5 miles to run or walk with FrontRunners members. 6:15 p.m. (walkers) and 6:30 p.m. (runners), Fuller Park, north side of Fuller Rd. at Maiden Ln. Free. 741-1763.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. CMU. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$21. 764-0247.

★**"A Gathering of Peace": The Free Daist Communion.** Every Tuesday except December 24 & 31. Prayer vigil for peace featuring the teachings of Adi Da, Western-born guru Heart Master (formerly known as Da Free John). All invited. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 741-0432.

National Association of Women Business Owners. A chance to meet club members, hear a summary of the past year's programs, and learn about upcoming 2003 programs. Officer elections. Bring business cards. Preceded by networking (6:30 p.m.) All invited. 7 p.m., 102 Cleary University, 3601 Plymouth Rd. \$10 (members, free). 332-9300.

★**"How Do I Begin: Science Fair Ideas":** Ann Arbor District Library. December 3-5 & 7 (different branch locations). Slauson Middle School science teacher Jeff Bradley (December 3 & 5) and Forsythe Middle School science department head Maureen Michael (December 4 & 7) offer science project suggestions for middle school students. 7-8 p.m., AADL Northeast (Dec. 3), West (Dec. 4), & Loving (Dec. 5) branches and main library (Dec. 7). Free. 327-4200 (Northeast & West), 994-2353 (Loving), 327-8301 (main).

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. December 3 & 10. Historical and traditional English dances. Today: Marlin Whitaker and Ray Bantle lead to music by pianist David West and fiddler Donna Baird. Also this month: Greg Meisner leads to music by fiddler Brad Battey and pianist Michael Shelata (December 10), and Alisa Dodson leads to music by West, Baird, and Dodson (December 17). Partners and previous experience not necessary. Comfortable nonslip walking shoes recommended. 7 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. \$6. 422-1170.

★**Sweet Adelines County Connection.** Every Tuesday except December 24 & 31. All women invited to participate in the weekly rehearsals of this local 30-member barbershop harmony chorus. 7-10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$18 monthly dues for those who join). 995-4110.

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** Every Tuesday except December 24 & 31. All male singers invited to attend the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to first-time visitors (\$73 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call Tom Peirce at 668-8040.

Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club. Every Tuesday except December 24 & 31. Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 26th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M indoor track, S. State at Hoover. U-M pass (\$5 per day) required. 668-7931, 663-9740.

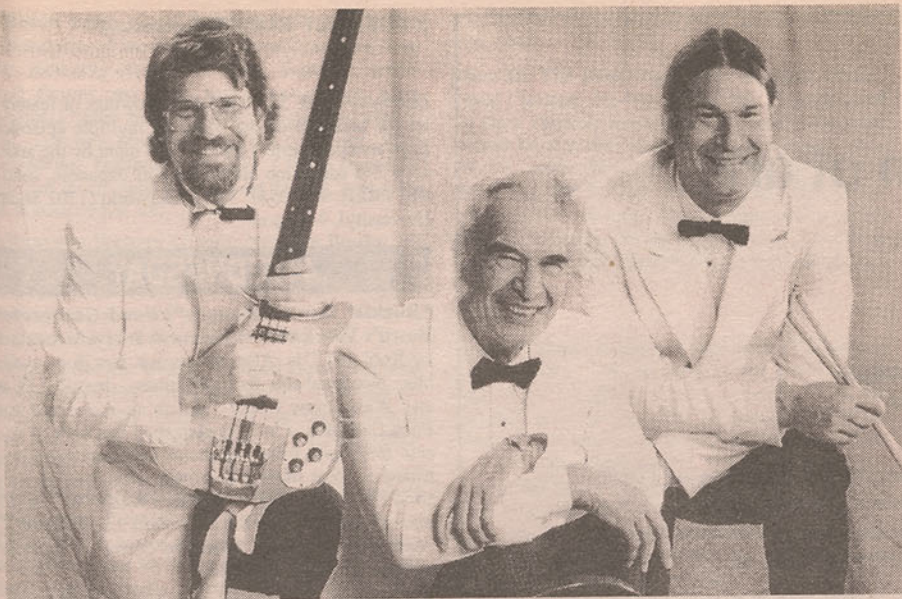
★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** Every Tuesday (except December 24 & 31) & Saturday. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. 7:30-9:30 p.m. (Tues.) & 1-3 p.m. (Sat.), location TBA. Free. 913-5831.

Introduction to Qigong. Local martial arts instructor Ryan Wilson introduces this Chinese internal energy development technique. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 116 S. Main. Suggested donation \$7. 975-9429.

★**"Teens Using Drugs":** Dawn Farn. December 3 & 10. 2-part talk by local social worker Ron Harrison. Today: "What to Know." Also this month: "What to Do" (December 10). Refreshments, literature. 7:30-9 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, classroom EC4 (Dec. 3) & exhibition room (Dec. 10), 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). Free. 973-7892.

★**"A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life":** Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. December 3 & 10. Talk by Rimpoché Nawang Gehlek, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. Occasion-

For more information call 327.4200 or visit our website at www.aadl.org



Legendary jazzman Dave Brubeck performs his Latin American-style Christmas cantata with his sons Chris (left) and Dan at First Presbyterian Church Dec. 11.

ally, the talk is given by Gehlek's longtime student Aura Glaser (former owner of Crazy Wisdom Bookstore) or a visiting speaker. 7:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. Free, but donations are accepted. 994-3387.

★**Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.** December 3 & 17. Members give talks on how to "Dress for Skiing" (December 3) and "Skiing Safely: Bring a Friend" (December 17). All invited. Preceded by socializing (7 p.m.). 7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 662-SKIS.

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Members show their recent slides and prints illustrating the theme "Textures." All invited. 7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free (\$10 annual dues for those who join). 663-3763, 665-6597.

★**"Traditional Herbal Magic and Spiritual Uses of Herbs": People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series.** Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. 7:30-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore and Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994-4589.

★**"Ballast Tanks: Transoceanic Highways for Aquatic Invasive Species Movement to the Great Lakes (and Elsewhere)": U-M Science Research Club.** Talk by Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab nonindigenous species program director David Reid. 7:30-10 p.m., G-390 Dental Bldg., 1011 North University. (Entrance is from 3rd level of the Fletcher St. parking structure.) Free. 761-4320.

★**Spanish Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of *Mal de amores* (Lovesick), Angela Mastretta's acclaimed period novel, set during the Mexican revolution, about a woman physician torn between lovers. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-0846.

★**"Holiday Concert": Ypsilanti Community Band.** This 50-member adult band is joined by the Ypsilanti Community Choir for a program of seasonal music. 7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 697-3471.

★**Video Planning Meeting: Peace InSight.** Beginning and experienced videographers invited to help with the production of *Piece InSight*, the local TV show on peace and social justice issues, aired on cable channel 17 Tuesdays at 7 p.m. 8 p.m., location TBA. Free. 761-7749.

★**"Defining Sculpture: A Discussion for the 21st Century": EMU Art Department.** Talk by Jeff Nathanson, director of the prestigious International Sculpture Center (New Jersey). 8 p.m., 107 Ford Hall. Free. 487-1213.

Secou "The Misfit": Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Performance by this current National Individual Slam champion, a veteran performer who recently released the CD *Afrodeezyaak / The Mumbings of a Madman*. Followed by a poetry slam, in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a \$10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. The program opens and closes with open mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologists in verse. 8-11 p.m., Heidelberg Rathskeller, 215 N. Main. \$4. For information, call Larry Francis at 426-3451.

★**Flute Choir: EMU Music Department.** Julie Stone directs this music-student ensemble in a program of works from the Baroque to the contemporary. 8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

The Battlefield Band: The Ark. One of the key forces in the revival of interest in Scottish music that began in the mid-70s, this acclaimed quartet plays everything from ancient Celtic tunes on Highland pipes to traditional and original Scottish songs, along with occasional forays into American pop. The current lineup includes one founding member—keyboardist-guitarist Alan Reid—along with fiddle prodigy John McCusker, piper Mike Katz, vocalist Karine Polwart, and Alasdair White, a 19-year-old award-winning fiddler from the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$17.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. Every Tuesday except December 24 & 31. Ballroom dancing to live music by Detroit-area bands. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Refreshments. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. by a dance class (\$4). Dress code observed. 8:30-10:45 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. \$6 (members, \$5). 665-2723, (517) 592-5771.

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** Every Tuesday except December 24 & 31. All German speakers invited for conversation. 9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Co., 116 E. Washington. Free admission. 665-2931.

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. Every Tuesday except December 24 & 31. Short sets by a variety of area and regional stand-up comics. If you'd like to perform, call emcee Timmy P at 369-2381 at least 5 days in advance. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m., Club Above (3rd floor of the Heidelberg), 215 N. Main. \$5 at the door only. 663-5578.

Jim Roll: The Blind Pig. Highly regarded local singer-songwriter known for his barbed alt-country-flavored folk-rock ballads and love songs. Tonight he celebrates the release of his new CD, *Inhabiting the Ball*. Opening act is Tandy, a classy New York City folk-rock quartet, led by singer-songwriter Mike Ferrio, that's known for its stirring poetic lyrics, memorable hooks, and crisp arrangements. 9 p.m.-midnight (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets \$8 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; \$10 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666; for information, call 996-8555.

FILMS

MTF. "Far From Heaven" (Todd Haynes, 2002). See 1 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. **"8 Women"** (Francois Ozon, 2002). See 1 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. **"After the War, Before the Wall"** German Film Series. **"Roses Bloom on the Grave in the Meadow"** (Hans Koenig, 1952). See 2 Monday. Mich., times TBA. **U-M Pierpont Commons. "Knife in the Water"** (Roman Polanski, 1962). When a married couple impetuously invite a hitchhiker to their yacht, tensions slowly build to a dangerous level. Polish, subtitles. FREE. 647-6838. **Pierpont Commons** (2101 Bonisteel), 7:30 p.m. **The Underworld. "Anime Night."** Every Tuesday except

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museum of art

a year of asian art: winter exhibitions

Masterworks of Chinese Painting: In Pursuit of Mists and Clouds

Through January 5, 2003

A splendid panorama of 60 Chinese paintings, presenting eight centuries of awe-inspiring landscapes, charming figure studies, and beautiful bird-and-flower paintings, assembled by the distinguished scholar and U-M alumnus James Cahill and members of his family.

Gallery Tour by Senior Curator of Asian Art Maribeth Graybill
Sunday December 8 at 3 pm

Docent Gallery Tours

Sunday, December 15 at 2 pm and Thursday, December 19 at 7 pm

Masterworks of Chinese Painting: In Pursuit of Mists and Clouds is organized and circulated by the Berkeley Art Museum. This exhibition is made possible by the DTE Energy Foundation, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Office of the Provost of the University of Michigan, the Friends of the Museum of Art, and other generous donors.

Japanese Visions of China

Through January 26, 2003

Twenty works of painting and calligraphy by Japanese artists who found an avenue to self-expression through emulation of Chinese models.

Support for this exhibition has been provided by the Blakemore Foundation, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the University of Michigan's Office of the Provost and Center for Japanese Studies.

Contemporary Arabic Calligraphy by Khaled al-Saa'i

Through January 26, 2003

A native of Syria, Khaled al-Saa'i is an internationally recognized master of Arabic calligraphy. This small but exquisite exhibition, his first one-man show in North America, presents the extraordinary range of his style, from verses inscribed in classical script to lush, evocative landscapes of the mind.

Support for this exhibition has been provided by the Center for Middle East and North African Studies of the University of Michigan.

Treasures of Islamic Art from the UMMA Collection

November 30, 2002-ongoing

Metalwork with intricate inlay patterns, colorful glazed bowls and tiles, beautifully inscribed Quranic verses, and illustrated Persian court romances, all on view for the first time in many years, will dazzle and delight.

Support for this exhibition has been provided by the Center for Middle East and North African Studies of the University of Michigan.



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Mondays in December 10am-4pm

left: Khaled al-Saa'i, Syrian, b. 1970, *Poems from Mahmoud Darweesh*, 2000, natural ink, tempera, and watercolor on paper, Collection of the artist

525 South State Street, Ann Arbor Hotline: 734.763.UMMA
Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Thursday, 10 am to 9 pm;
Sunday, noon to 5 pm <http://www.umich.edu/~umma/>

3 TUESDAY EVENTS continued

December 24 & 31. Free DVD showings of feature-length Japanese *anime* films (or multiple episodes from an anime series) chosen each night by the audience. No admission after 9:30 p.m. Japanese, subtitles. FREE. 998-0547. The Underworld (1202 South University), 9-11 p.m.

4 WEDNESDAY

"Rockin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers/Busch's Valu Land. December 4-8. Live broadcasts by Kool 107 DJs. Also, giveaways. Hot dogs available. Nonperishable food donations—dropped off at any Washtenaw County Busch's—requested for Food Gatherers, a local organization that collects excess fresh food from restaurants and markets to distribute to local shelters and other organizations with food programs. 6 a.m.-7 p.m. (Wed.-Sat.) & 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sun.), Busch's Valu Land, 2240 S. Main. Free admission; donations of canned goods or cash encouraged. 761-2796.

★Northeast Neighbors: Ann Arbor District Library. Every Wednesday except December 25. Parents with small children invited to meet and talk while their kids enjoy books, toys, and puzzles. 10-11 a.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall, 2713 Plymouth Rd. Free. 996-3180.

★"ArtVideos": U-M Museum of Art. December 4, 11, & 18. This continuing series of video screenings this month highlights art from the Netherlands, a country with arguably the highest number of internationally celebrated artists per capita. Today: *The Light of Experience* examines the cultural influences on Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Frans Hals. Also this month: *Vermeer: Light, Love, and Silence* shows the social context of Vermeer's work (December 11), and *Masters of Sea and Sail* navigates the world of Dutch marine painting (December 18). 12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

★Chess Group: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. Every Wednesday except December 25. All seniors invited to play chess. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9350.

Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory. December 4 & 11. All invited to take a docent-guided tour of the photographs and artifacts in this award-winning restored museum where 21 minor planets and asteroids were discovered. Not recommended for children under age 10. 2-5 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 East Ann at Observatory. \$5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763-2230.

★"Shulchan Ivrit (Hebrew Table)": American Movement for Israel. Every Wednesday. Conversation group for all speakers of Hebrew. "whether you speak two words or speak like a *sabra* [native-born Israeli]." 3:15-4:45 p.m., Amer's, 611 Church St. Free. 769-0500.

★"The Lords of Humankind Revisited": U-M Program in the Comparative Study of Social Transformations. University College (London) modern British social and cultural history professor Catherine Hall discusses the influence of popular understandings of nation and empire on social and cultural history in the 19th century. 4-6 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 936-1595.

★Runners' Clinic: Michigan Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center. Every Wednesday. Runners of all ability levels invited to chat with orthopedic surgeon John Anderson, physical therapist Pete Kitto, podiatrist Brad Seel, Tortoise and Hare reps Matt and Monica Holappa, and a rep from Koch's Orthotics. Bring running shoes, shorts, and questions about any aspect of running. 5-6 p.m., MSMOC, Arbor Park Office Center, 4972B W. Clark Rd. at Golfside, Ypsilanti. Free. 434-3020.

★Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club. Every Wednesday except December 25. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). 6:15-7:45 p.m., 102 Krieger Hall, Concordia University, 4090 Geddes Rd. Free to visitors. Dues: \$24 semiannually. 995-7351.

★Transcendental Meditation Introductory Session: Maharishi Vedic School. Every Wednesday except December 25. Ann Arbor TM director Carol Lubetkin introduces this simple, natural meditation technique for creativity, happiness, and fulfillment. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 996-8686.

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. Every Wednesday except December 25. Each 2-person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. 7-11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) \$3 per person. 971-7530.

***Huron Valley Model Builders.** All invited to join a discussion of models built from scratch or from kits, including cars, tanks, boats, airplanes, spacecraft, figures, and more. Bring your project. Also, members share building and customizing tips. 7 p.m., *Lakeview Mobile Home Park clubhouse*, 9910 Gerraldine, Ypsilanti Twp. (take I-94 to Huron St. exit and head south, turn left on Textile, turn right on Bunton). Free. 481-1044.

***Westside Writers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join members of this writing group to read and chat about samples of each other's original works (bring some of your own). 7 p.m., *Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center*. Free. 971-5763.

***Poetry Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore and Tea Room.** Every Wednesday except December 25. Open mike poetry readings. Sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m. 7-9:30 p.m., *Crazy Wisdom*, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-9468.

"Stars Onstage: A Benefit Concert for Children": Washtenaw Community College. A set by the WCC Jazz Orchestra, followed by solo and ensemble performances by dance students from WCC, the Dance Theater Studio, and the Spotlight Studio LLC (Pinckney). Proceeds benefit the U-M's Mott Children's Hospital. 7 p.m., *WCC Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium*, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Donation or unwrapped gift. 677-5090.

25th Anniversary Party: Child Care Network/Washtenaw Regional AC. With an appearance by Zeemo the Yo-Yo Man and other family-oriented activities. Refreshments. 7:30 p.m., *Jewish Community Center*, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. Reservations required by November 30. 975-1840.

***"Visitors Night": Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** Club members invite those interested in model railroading to come and check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a genuine period depot that members rescued from oblivion and restored. 7:30-10 p.m., *Michigan Central depot*, 3487 Broad St., Dexter (take Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd. to downtown Dexter & turn right on Broad St.). Free. 426-5100.

***Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council.** Every Wednesday except December 25. Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. 7:30 p.m., *Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center*, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665-3522.

***"What's Cray Doing Now: How Supercomputers Are Being Used in Industry": Ann Arbor Computer Society.** Talk by Cray Research programming guru Dave Strenski. 7:30 p.m., *Kiva Conference Center* (old ERIM bldg.), 3600 Green Rd. Free. 668-1982.

***Jazz Concert: Greenhills School.** Neil Donato leads the middle school band and Deborah Henderson leads the high school band in a program of jazz standards. 7:30 p.m., *Greenhills Campbell Center for the Performing Arts*, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4000.

***EMU Women's Chorus: EMU Music Department.** Ernest Brandon directs this EMU music-student choir in a program of seasonal music. 8 p.m., *Holy Trinity Chapel*, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

***Jazz Lab Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Dennis Wilson leads the U-M Jazz Trombone Choir and the Jazz Flute Ensemble in U-M music theory student Brian Hoffman's arrangement of Dizzy Gillespie's "A Night in Tunisia" that mutates through big band, Latin, and funk styles. Guest musician is noted New York jazz drummer Carl Allen. Other works TBA. 8 p.m., *Rackham Auditorium*. Free. 764-0594.

***Amy Porter: U-M School of Music.** This U-M flute professor performs music inspired by fantasy and folklore traditions from around the world, including Anne LeBaron's *Sachamama*, a work for solo flute and prerecorded percussion inspired by an Amazonian snake deity, with a recorded soundtrack that features percussive sounds from "sound sculptures" hung in a barn. Also, works by Jean-Michel Damase, Carl Reinecke, and Wilhelm Peterson-Berger. U-M music faculty accompanists include oboist Nancy Ambrose King, harpsichordist Sean Duggan, and pianist Phillip Bush. 8 p.m., *U-M Music School Recital Hall*, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

***"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** Every Wednesday except December 25. All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, *An Outline of Esoteric Science*. 8:15-9:30

p.m., *Rudolf Steiner House*, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 485-3764.

Mars III: The Blind Pig. Highly regarded Atlanta-based Christian hip-hop duo of MC Manchild and DJ Dust. Opening acts are *Switch Stance*, a popular Detroit hip-hop duo, and another hip-hop act TBA. 10 p.m.-midnight (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), *The Blind Pig*, 208 S. First. Tickets (price TBA) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666; for information, call 996-8555.

FILMS

U-M Michigan League. "Vanilla Sky" (Cameron Crowe, 2001). Video showing of this psychological fable about a wealthy, feckless playboy whose life suddenly seems to start taking surprising turns for the worst. Tom Cruise, Cameron Diaz, Penelope Cruz. FREE. *League Underground*, 911 North University, 8 p.m. *Michigan Theater Foundation. "The Last Kiss"* (Gabriele Muccino, 2002). December 4, 7, 9, & 11. Sentimental comedy-drama about 3 young Italian men, one with a baby on the way, whose panic at the thought of adult responsibility drives them into bad liaisons. Stars Italian heartthrob Stefano Accorsi. Italian, subtitles. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. *Michigan Theater*, times TBA. **"A Christmas Carol"** (Edwin Marin, 1938). See 1 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. **"Far From Heaven"** (Todd Haynes, 2002). See 1 Sunday. Mich., times TBA.

5 THURSDAY

Holiday Bazaar: Chelsea Community Hospital. Sale of crafts and baked goods, plus drawings for a 25" TV, a handmade wall hanging, and a stained-glass-framed mirror. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., *CCH*, 775 S. Main St., Chelsea. Free admission. 475-3913.

Benefit Sale: Eastern Silversmiths Guild. Sale of jewelry handmade by the Silversmiths Guild, an EMU student group. Proceeds benefit SOS Crisis Center. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., *EMU McKenny Union*, Washtenaw at W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Free admission. 485-3706.

55th Annual Greens Market: Women's Farm and Garden Association. A wide selection of fresh greenery arranged in wreaths, ropes, sprays, and swags for holiday decoration. Also, handmade gifts and crafts and a white elephant sale. Raffle, door prizes. Lunch available (11 a.m.-1 p.m.). Proceeds benefit scholarships and local horticultural projects (last year the group raised \$6,000). 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., *Women's City Club*, 1830 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 994-0999.

***Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** Every Thursday. A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Adults at Leisure Coffee Hour,"** a social support discussion group, led by local social worker Phyllis Herzig, that offers a chance to socialize, listen to music, tell jokes, and relax. At 11 a.m., an educational or cultural presentation. Today: a **Hanukkah celebration** with children from the JCC Early Childhood Center. Also this month: JCC endowment director Judie Lax discusses **"Leaving a Jewish Legacy"** (December 5), open discussion of **"Gems of Family Wisdom: What I Learned from My Parents That I Can Pass on to My Children and Grandchildren"** (December 19), and showing of **The Power of Good: Nicholas Winton** (December 26), a documentary about a courageous effort to save 687 Jewish children during WW II. At 1 p.m., **Current Events**, a discussion group led by a facilitator TBA. The program concludes with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group** (2:15-3:15 p.m.), a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschawsky. Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reservation and for nonseniors). All invited. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., *JCC*, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

***Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** Every Thursday. Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids ages 2-9. 11 a.m., *Barnes & Noble*, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-0846.

Thursday Forum: First Presbyterian Church. December 5 & 12. Today: church elder Ginny Rezmierski discusses the history and development of First Presbyterian's Filipino mission as a **"Discipline of Listening to God."** Also this month: **Advent and seasonal music TBA** (December 12). All invited. Noon-1:15 p.m., *First Presbyterian Church* social hall, 1432 Washtenaw. \$5 (includes buffet lunch). 662-4466.

***"Political Ideologies of Japan's National Legislators and Their Implications for Contemporary Japanese Politics": U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** Talk by University of Tokyo law professor

Ann Arbor
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1830 Washtenaw Avenue



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december. 2002

calendar of events

11.5 - 12.24

Washington Street Gallery
215 E. Washington
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Tu/W/Th 11am-5pm
F/Sa 11am-9pm
Closed 12.2

11.6 - 12.7

Warren M. Robbins Center
for Graduate Studies
Art + Architecture Bldg.
M-F 8am-5pm
Closed 11.27-12.1

11.7 - 12.15

Jean Paul Slusser Gallery
Art + Architecture Bldg.
Tu/Th 12-8pm
W/F/Sa/Su 11am-4pm
Closed Mondays & 11.27-12.2

11.15.02 - 1.05.03

Work
306 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Tu/W/Th 11am-6pm
F/Sa 11am-8pm, Su 12-5pm
Closed 12.23-12.26 & 12.30-01.01.03

12.5

Art + Architecture Auditorium
Art + Architecture Bldg.
UM North Campus

12.6 - 12.19

Media Union Gallery
2281 Bonisteel Boulevard
UM North Campus
M-F 12-6pm, Su 11am-5pm
Closed Saturdays

12.6

Media Union Video Studio
2281 Bonisteel Boulevard
UM North Campus

12.7.02 - 1.24.03

Biegas Gallery
35 Grand River, East
Detroit, MI
Th/F/Sa 12-6pm

12.8.02 - 3.2.03

Dennos Museum Center
Traverse City, MI

12.9

Art + Architecture Bldg.
Room 2216
UM North Campus

12.12

Art + Architecture Auditorium
Art + Architecture Bldg.
UM North Campus

EXHIBITION: FIGURE IT OUT: AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS IN AND ON CLAY, CANVAS, PAPER AND WOOD

Recent works by School of Art & Design Professor Ted Ramsay and faculty Marcia Polenberg. For further information please call 734.761.2287.

Artists' talk December 6, 7:00pm

EXHIBITION: CLAY AND INK

Seven artists who work in print and ceramics come together for an exploration of process. The participants are School of Art & Design Master of Fine Arts degree candidates Kira Campbell, Jesse Connor, Colin Matthes, Michael Nagara, and Jason van Dalson, and Art & Design staff Jessica Leming and Dawn Simmons.

EXHIBITION: WHAT'S THE USE

A group show that steps aside from the familiar expectations of art to examine what else an art object can do. At what point is it no longer Art? And, of what use is the aesthetic experience in Art? Participating artists include Ann Agee, Roger Andersson, Suzanne Bocanegra and J. Morgan Puett, Ken Butler, Paula Hayes, Robin Kahn, Ben Kinmont and Chrysanthe Stathacos.

INAUGURAL EXHIBITION: THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

A selection of pieces from the 2002 Bachelor of Fine Arts Student Awards Exhibition launches the School of Art & Design's new exhibition venue. For further information please call 734.998.6178.

Closed 12.1 in observance of "A Day Without Art"

LECTURE: ROBERT ATKINS

Author, activist and producer Robert Atkins is the initiator of 911: the September 11 Project, a founder of Visual AIDS, a columnist for the Village Voice, the creator of the first American online journal about online art, and the author of "ArtSpeak: a Guide to Contemporary Ideas, Movements and Buzzwords." Supported by the Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Visitors Fund.

Lecture 5:00pm Admission Free

EXHIBITION: THINGS MATTER

An exhibition of printmaking and ceramics works by those advanced students of School of Art & Design professors Takeshi Takahara and Georgette Zirbes who are using historical and contemporary technologies as tools for addressing the intuitive processes of self.

Opening Reception December 6, 6:00-8:00pm

PERFORMANCE: THE IMAGE AND THE MOMENT

A performance of dramatic texts developed from still images by students in an interdisciplinary course taught by School of Art & Design Professor Joanne Leonard and Theatre Professor Kate Mendeloff.

Performance 8:00pm Admission Free

EXHIBITION: A DANCE OF CHAOS AND ORDER

A group exhibition by Art du Jour, a local group of visual artists including School of Art & Design Assistant Professor Jaye Schlesinger, examining each artist's response to our chaotic world - emotionally, spiritually, intellectually, or mechanically.

Opening Reception December 7, 5:00-8:00pm

EXHIBITION: MICHIGAN POTTERS' ASSOCIATION 21ST JURORED EXHIBITION FOR ARTISTS IN CLAY

Including recent work by School of Art & Design faculty Marcia Polenberg.

Opening Reception December 14, 6:00-8:00pm

PRESENTATION: OLIVER GRAU "VIRTUAL ART: FROM ILLUSION TO IMMERSION"

Dr. Grau, a new media art-historian from Berlin, will speak on the development of virtual reality, beginning with pre-computational historical experiments with virtual worlds, continuing through present-day work with 3D computer graphics. Supported by the Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Visitors Fund.

Presentation 5:15pm Admission Free

LECTURE: FLO OY WONG

A visual storyteller, Flo Wong uses rice sacks, US flags, and suitcases to narrate extraordinary stories of her family and the Chinese American community. Her work has been shown at the Smithsonian Institution's African American Museum, the US embassies in Lusaka, Zambia and Denmark, Copenhagen and numerous local and national venues. Supported by the Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Visitors Fund.

Lecture 5:00pm Admission Free



5 THURSDAY EVENTS continued

Ikuo Kabashima. Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6307.

★"Self-Concepts, Perceived Parenting Styles, and Well-Being in Different Cultural and Socio-economic Contexts": U-M Psychology Department. Talk by psychology grad student Zahide Aygun. Noon, 3048 East Hall, 525 E. University. Free. 764-0350.

★Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals. December 5, 12, & 19. Performances by local artists. Today: upbeat seasonal favorites by the U-M Health System ensemble Counterpoint. Also this month: classical selections by the Borodin Society medical-student ensemble (December 12) and a snowflake cutting demo by popular local snowflake artist Thomas Clark (December 12). 12:10 p.m. (unless otherwise indicated), U-M Hospital lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936-ARTS.

★"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network. Every Thursday. A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 17). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features 1 or 2 speakers (with no more than 2 graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. Access Soapbox shows are aired daily for 1 week, beginning on Sunday. 2-7 p.m., CTN studio, Edison Center, Suite LL114, 425 S. Main. Free. Reservations accepted Tues. through Fri. of the week preceding your appearance. 769-7422.

★"Medical Technology and Health Disparities": U-M School of Public Health. Talk by RAND Graduate School (California) senior economist Dana Goldman. 3-4:30 p.m., M3024 SPH II, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 936-1301.

★"Disability at the Dawn of the 21st Century and the State of the States": U-M Council for Disability Concerns. Talk by David Braddock, director of the University of Illinois Institute on Disability and Human Development. 4-6 p.m., Michigan League Michigan Room. Free. 763-0235.

★"W" and "BW": Rethinking the Biological Warfare Problem": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender. IRWG history of science scholar Susan Wright discusses Western, particularly American, biological warfare policies. Afterwards, Wright holds a book signing at Shaman Drum (315 S. State) for her latest book, *Biological Warfare and Disarmament: New Problems/New Perspectives*. 4 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764-9537.

★"Traditional Thai Pottery": Yourist Pottery. Screening of Louis Katz's playful, absorbing 1991 video about the handmade pottery industry in 5 small Thai villages. 4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1160 Broadway. Free. 662-4914.

★Rick Hilles: U-M English Department. Reading by this local poet, whom Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Richard Howard calls "one of the best poets of his generation." Hilles soon heads to southern France as the 2002-2003 Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Scholar. 5 p.m., D1276 Davidson Hall, 701 Tappan. Free. 615-3710.

★Robert Atkins: U-M School of Art & Design. Talk by this activist and *Village Voice* columnist, who created 911: *The September 11 Project* and helped found *Visual AIDS*, an art program that includes the "Day Without Art" (see 1 Sunday listing). 5 p.m., Art + Architecture auditorium, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 936-2082.

★Wu T'ai Chi Chu'an: Wu T'ai Chi Chu'an Academy. December 5 & 8 (different times & locations). All invited to try this "soft style" martial art described as "meditation in motion." 6:30-8 p.m., Wu T'ai Chi Chu'an Academy, 410 W. Washington in the Tech Center building (Dec. 5); 4-5:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Temple, 207 E. Washington (Dec. 8). Free. (248) 543-3737.

Scandinavian Christmas Celebration: Ann Arbor Scandinavian Club. This family-oriented party features folk singing, a Lucia train (a Swedish children's pageant), and other activities. Santa Claus is on hand. Bring a dish to share for a potluck. Smorgasbord with glogg (a spiced seasonal fruit-and-wine beverage). Open to anyone interested in Scandinavian culture. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. \$5 (children, \$3). 741-0895.

★Stilyagi Air Corps. All invited to meet members of this friendly science fiction fan group to chat about science fiction books, movies, comics, games,

Sign language interpreter provided upon advance request for lectures. Call 734.763.4417

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Most events are free and open to the public. For more information, please call 734.936.2082.
<http://www.art-design.umich.edu> email contact: katewest@umich.edu

classical music



DAVID SMITH

A spiritually great *Messiah* Tom Sheets transfigures the Choral Union

The audience for the University Choral Union's annual performances of Handel's *Messiah* seems to consist solely of those folks for whom attending is a traditional part of their families' seasonal celebrations. That's understandable: *Messiah* may be the greatest oratorio Handel ever wrote, but it is so popular that there is virtually no inducement to listen to the work. Hearing it—turning it into musical wrapping paper as part of a family tradition—is one thing. But listening to it—actually paying attention to every solo aria, every choral number, every bar, and every beat—seems to be just not done anymore.

For me, the Choral Union's *Messiah* hadn't been worth listening to, anyway. Until about a decade ago, I went every year. But no matter how many times I went, I could not rid myself of the unpleasant notion that I was at a meeting of a very exclusive club that, in a reversal of Groucho Marx's famous dictum, would not have me as a member. Everything that happened in Hill Auditorium was very jolly, very cherished, and musically very awful. The out-of-tune and out-of-sync choral singing, the warbling and wobbling soloists, the all-but-unconscious orchestral playing, the only slightly more than comatose conducting—all of it was just terrible. When I sat on my hands

rather than burst into spasms of unbuttoned enthusiasm, when I resolutely refused to join the idiotic practice of singing along with the "Hallelujah" Chorus, I could tell from the reactions of my neighbors that I might as well have spit in the holy water.

I stopped going. But after a recent immersion in the glories and the wonders of Handel's oratorios, I decided to try the Choral Union's *Messiah* again. It was likely to be the only Handel oratorio I was ever going to hear live, so I went, fearing the worst but hoping for the best.

It was magnificent. Tom Sheets, the director of the Choral Union, has performed a musical miracle: the Choral Union is the best chorus I have ever heard live. Under Sheets's direction, the chorus sang with ease, grace, and power, with dynamics from the most hushed pianissimo to the most earth-shattering fortissimo, with expressions from horror to awe to ecstasy. And Sheets's *Messiah* was also a deeply affecting spiritual drama—the birth and exaltation of the Christian Lord and Savior depicted in sound by a composer of genius and evoked in performance by a conductor of tremendous talent and abilities. There was no moment during the performance when I doubted that I was in the presence of profound spiritual greatness. Even the sing-along "Hallelujah" Chorus became a communal sharing of the music's spirituality by the congregation.

The Choral Union's annual *Messiah* is at the Michigan Theater Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7.

—James Leonard

and upcoming fan conventions. 7 p.m., Amer's, 611 Church. Free. (313) 390-2369.

★**Washtenaw Toastmasters.** Every Thursday. Members develop public-speaking skills and self-confidence in a supportive environment. Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). 7-9 p.m., St. Luke Lutheran Church, 4205 Washtenaw. Free to visitors. Dues: \$52 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 572-9978.

★**Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health.** Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663-9724.

★**"Coffee Hour": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to chat with local neopagans. 7-9 p.m., Arborland Borders. Free. 998-1029.

★**Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition.** All invited to discuss ways to improve the quality and quantity of bicycling and walking facilities in the county. 7 p.m., Ecology Center, 117 N. Division. Free. 487-9058.

★**"Information about Cohousing."** December 5, 15, & 16. All invited to learn more about the Great Oak cohousing community, which has only a few spots left. Cohousing is a term for an ecologically

conscious, collectively owned, resident-planned housing development, such as the Sunward Cohousing complex off Jackson Road. 7 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center (Dec. 5 & 16); Common Language Book Store (Dec. 15). Free. 663-5516.

★**"Women's Health Issues": Guerreso Chiropractic.** December 5 & 12. All invited to learn how massage can relieve PMS, carpal tunnel syndrome, and prenatal, chronic, and menopause pains. Participants receive minimassages. 7 p.m., 1207 Packard, Suite S-1. Free. 994-7030.

★**"Wild Neighbors: Humane Solutions to Conflict with Wildlife": Humane Society of Huron Valley/Friends of Wildlife.** Humane Society of the U.S. urban wildlife program director John Hadidian, author of *Wild Neighbors*, discusses how conflicts between people and wild animals can be resolved without displacing or harming the animals. Q&A. Displays of humane products and information. 7-9 p.m., Chelsea Community Hospital, 775 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. 662-5585, 665-5592, 913-9843.

★**"Così": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** December 5-7. U-M student Brian Lobel directs Louis Nowra's comedy about sanity, love, and happiness. 7 p.m., Arena Stage (Frieze basement), 105 S. State. Free. 764-6800.

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FOLLIES

Book by James Goldman

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Produced Originally on Broadway by Harold Prince

By special arrangement with Cameron Mackintosh

Saturday, January 4 at 8:00

Sunday, January 5 at 2:00

Imagine the beautiful Michigan Theater coming alive with five Broadway stars flown in from New York, a professional orchestra and the best local talent, all blended for a very special performance of *Follies*, a musical by the legendary composer/lyricist Stephen Sondheim, best known for his shows *Into the Woods*, *West Side Story* and *Gypsy*, and the song *Send in the Clowns*. The narrative of *Follies* revolves around a reunion of middle-aged former Ziegfeld-era showgirls and the ghosts of their younger selves. For this very special production, we will reunite four cast members from the original 1971 Broadway production AND feature the Tony Award-winning legend Donna McKechnie. As in the story of *Follies*, 30 years have elapsed since these original *Follies* performers have been on stage together. This production is sure to provide glorious nights of theater magic at Ann Arbor's fully restored historic Michigan Theater.

Produced for MTF by Russell B. Collins and Emily Phenix

Directed by Brent Wagner

Music Direction by Bradley Bloom

Featuring from the original *Follies* cast: Harvey Evans, Kurt Peterson, Virginia Sandifur, Marti Rolph, plus DONNA McKECHNIE


With: Peter Bauland, George Shirley, Wendy Bloom, Malcolm Tulip, Julia Broxholm, Martha Sheil, Ingrid Sheldon, Susan Shipman, Patricia Garcia, Shelley MacMillan, Helga Hover, Brynn O'Malley, Brian Hissong, Marisa Dickmeyer, Paul Wyatt & Anne Eisendrath.



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5 THURSDAY EVENTS continued

★"Cover to Cover": Ann Arbor District Library. Book discussion group led by AADL staff focusing on popular books and authors. Today: *Eva Moves the Furniture*, Margot Livesey's novel about a motherless girl, lovingly raised by her father and aunt, who grows up with 2 ghosts whom only she can see. 7:30-8:30 p.m., AADL West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. Preregistration required. 327-4200.

★"The Effects of Social Change in Turkey: A Social-Psychological Perspective": Turkish Studies Colloquium: Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Talk by psychology grad student Zahide Aygun. 7:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0350.

★Beehive Poster Collective: Dreamland Theater. Members of this artist collective from Maine show and discuss their new project, *Plan Columbia*, a series of posters addressing American imperialist ambitions in the Amazon. 7:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Free. 485-3454.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Every Thursday. Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. 7:30-9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). \$3. 769-4324, 426-0241.

★Choir Concert: Greenhills School. Ben Cohen leads the middle and high school choirs in a concert of seasonal favorites, madrigals, motets, Brazilian music, spirituals, and works by Gershwin. 7:30 p.m., Greenhills Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4000.

★U-M Sailing Club. December 5 & 19. Talks by club members TBA. Today: "Iceboating," the thrilling sport of whizzing across frozen lakes at up to 100 miles per hour on a sailboat equipped with skatelike metal tracks. Also this month: "Cruising Destinations" explores some of the sailing hot spots around the world (December 19). 7:45 p.m., 120 Dennison Bldg., 501 East University. Free. 426-4299.

★Ann Arbor Ski Club. December 5 & 19. All invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. Tonight's meeting is followed by a dance. Newcomers welcome. Must be 21 or older. 8-11 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. Free. 761-3419.

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. December 5 & 6. U-M opera students perform staged excerpts from act 2 of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* (5 p.m.) and from Bizet's *Carmen* (8 p.m.). 5 & 8 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★Latin Jazz Combo and Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Double bill. Ellen Rowe leads the Jazz Ensemble in a concert highlighted by music by U-M music lecturer Roland Vazquez and two versions of "King Porter Stomp," the original Jelly Roll Morton piano version and a contemporary take. Also, Rowe's arrangement of "It Might as Well Be Spring," sax student Bobby Streng's arrangement of Wayne Shorter's "Beauty and the Beast," and more. Vazquez leads the new Latin Jazz Combo in a program TBA. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

★"A World of Performance Artistry": U-M Museum of Art First Thursday Performance Series. Sampler of music from around the world, performed on exotic instruments by U-M music students. Refreshments. 8 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764-UMMA.

Mary Lee's Corvette: The Ark. Mary Lee's Corvette is the stage name of Mary Lee Kortes, a folk-rock vocalist whom *Rolling Stone* critic David Fricke describes as a mix of "the high mountain sunshine of Dolly Parton with a sweet iron undercoat of Chrissie Hynde." Her new CD, *Blood on the Tracks*, recorded live on a "classic album night" at a club on Manhattan's Lower East Side, is an acclaimed collection of persuasive, occasionally inspired covers of all 10 songs on the landmark 1975 Dylan album. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$17.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Mulgrew Miller: The Firefly Club. Postbop jazz in the style of McCoy Tyner by this highly regarded pianist who has performed with Mercer Ellington's big band, Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, and the Tony Williams Quintet. His latest CD, *The Sequel*, has won praise for its blend of precise rhythms, a deep groove, rich melodicism, and the varied inventive-

ness of its 8 Miller originals. 8 & 10 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$20 in advance & at the door. 665-9090.

"The Yeomen of the Guard": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. December 5-8. Anthony Cantrell and Emily Cornelius direct this popular local town-and-gown company in Gilbert and Sullivan's only tragicomedy. Tudor-era war hero Colonel Fairfax is accused of sorcery by a greedy relative who stands to inherit a fortune if the colonel dies a bachelor. But on execution day, Fairfax asks a friend to find him a wife—any wife—so that he can foil the plot. The friend finds the humble Elsie and promises to pay her if she agrees to a temporary marriage. She does, but events convolute so that she finds herself married to a man she's never met. Despite its comic plot twists, *Yeomen* is the only G&S operetta with a (semi)unhappy ending, which nudges the work slightly closer to the realm of opera. Most think that *Yeomen* was librettist Gilbert's attempt to soothe composer Sullivan, who had tired of their collaboration and yearned to write weightier grand opera. Cast includes Peter Christian, Mitch Gillett, John Kelly, Katie Cilluffo, Tom Fitzstephens, and Ellen Putney Moore. 8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets \$15 & \$18 in advance & at the door. 764-2538.

"Phoenix Premieres II.Funny Stuff": Phoenix Productions. December 5-8 & 12-15. A fast-paced, funny 2-hour evening of 19 one-act plays by 9 different local playwrights featuring humorous and sometimes poignant explorations of a wide range of issues, from cloning, colonics, and pregnancy to divas, dating, and mammoth-hunting techniques. Playwrights: Barton Bund, Wendy Fong, Cecilia Foreman, Dennis Greenberg, Matt Pinard, Laurie Ruby, Shannon Sanville, Sheri Stankorb, and Owen Wittekindt. Cast: Randolph Fitzpatrick, Sean Jaworski, Linda Trygg, Wendy Wright, and playwrights Greenberg, Sanville, Stankorb, and Wittekindt. 8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$12 (students & seniors, \$10) in advance & at the door. 480-9577.

"Hamlet": U-M Theater Department. December 5-8. U-M theater professor Philip Kerr and visiting director Mark Lamos codirect U-M theater students in Shakespeare's masterful tragedy about the tormented prince of Denmark whose quest to avenge his father's murder leads to the death of almost everyone close to him. Between its rich, abundant poetry and its penetrating explorations of the abyss of human consciousness, *Hamlet*, celebrating its 400th anniversary this year, is universally recognized as an inescapable theatrical masterpiece, enjoying frequent revivals and still inspiring both homages and parodies. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$15 & \$20 (students, \$8) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance & at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Man of La Mancha": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Jim Dailakas: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 5-7. This Australian comic is known for his arresting take on American habits and customs—and his knack for mimicking the voices and facial expressions of American movie stars. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 (Thurs.) & \$7 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$8 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

Fall Concert: The G-Men. Concert of pop covers by this 14-member all-male a cappella group whose current repertoire includes Everclear's "AM Radio," U2's "Beautiful Day," and tunes by Counting Crows, Michael Jackson, Guster, Queen, and others. "Fun will be had by all," promises an organizer. 8:30 p.m., Michigan League Underground. Ticket price TBA. 763-1107.

★U-Club Poetry Slam. Competitive readings by U-M and EMU student poets, preceded by an open mike. Coffee available. Note: People not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Michigan Union after 9 p.m., but if you arrive before 9 p.m., you may remain through the end of the evening. 8:30 p.m., Michigan Union U-Club. Free. 763-3202.

FILMS

Dreamland Theater. "D.I.Y. or Die: How to Survive as an Independent Artist" (Michael W. Dean, 2002). Documentary with 2 dozen profiles of the working methods and motives of independent American artists in various media and genres, from Ron Asheton of the Stooges and other Ann Arbor-based bands and Jim Thirwell of Foetus to filmmaker Richard Kern and performance artist Jim Rose. \$5. 485-3454. Dreamland Theater (44 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti), 9 p.m. MTF. "Far From Heaven" (Todd Haynes, 2002). See 1 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. Projectorhead. "They Drive by Night" (Raoul Walsh, 1940). Riv-

eting tale of 2 hard-bitten truckers, who battle the open road and a murder rap dreamed up by a rejected lover who's unfortunately the boss's wife. Humphrey Bogart, George Raft, Ida Lupino. FREE. 764-0147. Modern Languages Bldg., 812 E. Washington, 7 p.m. "Pursued" (Raoul Walsh, 1947). Stark noir western about a tormented rancher whose secretive past involves a blood feud that pits him against his loved ones. Teresa Wright, Judith Anderson, Dean Jagger. FREE. 764-0147. Modern Languages Bldg., 812 E. Washington, 8:45 p.m.

6 FRIDAY

★**Adam Cardinal Maida: Ave Maria Foundation.** Talk by the Roman Catholic archbishop of Detroit. Breakfast available (7:45 a.m., \$3). 8 a.m., *Dominion's Farms* location TBA. Free. 930-3646.

★**Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor.** December 6 & 7. This extremely popular sale features skis, skates, radios, TVs, VCRs, turntables & speakers, hardware, appliances, computers, boots, winter clothing, jewelry, cameras, antiques, and lots of good-quality furniture, from chairs and couches to lamps, desks, and cabinets. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., *Kiwanis Activities Center*, W. Washington at First. Free admission. 665-0450.

★**19th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** December 6-9. One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit includes creches (Nativity scenes) from more than 100 countries around the world, many of them new this year. The exhibit includes many of the creches bequeathed to the exhibit by Catherine Carroll, the well-known local pediatrician who died in 1997. One highlight of Carroll's collection is an 18th-century *presepio* (Baroque creche) in the tradition that was popular with the Neapolitan royalty and church. It features 9 wood-and-porcelain figures clothed in lavish miniature costumes. Overall, the exhibit includes almost 900 creches collected or made by women of the church. The majority of creches are displayed in a large hall with a 20-foot Christmas tree decorated with lights and Nativity balls. There are also smaller "walk-in" rooms devoted to Latin American, African, Eastern European, Americana, and Asian creches, as well as a room of spinning light-mill nativities, and a unique French Santon village, and a "touch table" of unbreakable creches for children to arrange and rearrange. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, corn husks, leather, and metals, and styles range from simple childlike figures to hand-carved traditional figures to elegant original designs. Five "look-in" rooms hold the breakable Lladro, Lenox, and Hummel creches, as well as a Swiss and a new Mexican one. They range in size from an image inscribed on a pinhead (viewed with a magnifying glass) to 18-inch figures in the new Mexican nativity. Also, at 7:30 p.m. tonight only, a Christmas concert features a variety of vocal and instrumental Christmas music, including "Some Children See Him" and "Jesu Bambino," a string trio arrangement of Handel's "Unto Us a Child Is Born," a flute ensemble arrangement of the old English folk song "Welcome, Welcome," and more. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 327-7692, 461-2893.

★**"A Christmas Walk Through Historic Earhart Manor": Concordia University.** December 6-10. All invited to enjoy the splendor of this 1935 English-style country manor, currently home to Concordia administration, built by former local gasoline baron Harry Earhart. It features secret panels and mysterious hidden passageways linking rooms and floors, a room once used solely for arranging flowers, and rooms so spacious that a former closet is now a top Concordia administrator's office. Proceeds benefit a Concordia scholarship and the "Warm the Children" charity. Noon-7 p.m., *CU campus*, 4090 Geddes. \$5. 995-7537.

★**"Reproducing Jews: A Cultural Account of Assisted Contraception in Israel": U-M Center for Judaic Studies.** Talk by Brandeis University Hadasah International Research Institute research director Susan Kahn. Noon-1:30 p.m., *Lane Hall seminar room*, 204 S. State. Free. 763-9047.

★**Kristy Hanson: U-M Pierpont Commons "Music at Midday."** This Florida transplant performs Celtic, folk, and original songs, including some from her new CD, *Half the Moon*. Noon, *Pierpont Commons piano lounge*, 2101 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 647-6838.

★**"Hermeneutics of Hindu Dharma": U-M Center for South Asian Studies.** Talk by U-M Asian language and culture professor Don Davis. 2-3:30 p.m., 2609 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0352.

★**"27th Annual Holiday Evening in Saline": Saline Area Chamber of Commerce.** December 6

& 7. Two days of holiday fun. Today's events kick off with an open house at the Depot Museum (5-8 p.m.), followed by a dance performance by Ann Arbor Dance Classics at Union School (5:30 p.m.). Also, street performances by carolers, entertainers, and musicians (6-7 p.m. and 8-9 p.m.), a **community tree lighting** (7 p.m., Saline-Ann Arbor Road at Michigan Avenue), and a **parade** (down Michigan Avenue from Harris Street past the tree) that culminates with Santa's arrival. After the parade, kids can have their picture taken with Santa at Lucky Bucks Cafe. Concert by the Saline High School student group **Varsity Blues** at Union School (8 p.m.). Free shuttle buses between sites. The "evening" wraps up tomorrow with a "Treasure Trail to Santa" treasure hunt through Busch's Shopping Plaza shops (10 a.m.-2 p.m., 565 E. Michigan Ave.). 5-9 p.m., *downtown Saline*. Free. 429-4494.

★**BathHouse Demo and Release Party: EMU BathHouse Reading Series.** A chance to learn about the EMU creative writing program's new online literary arts journal (emunix.emich.edu/~bhouse) that includes poetry, fiction, multimedia, hypermedia, and audio works, with an emphasis on projects that cross traditional genre boundaries. 6 p.m., *EMU McKenny Union Alumni Room* (2nd floor), Washtenaw at W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-0135.

★**Grand Opening: Hollander's School of Book and Paper Arts.** All invited to visit Hollander's new workshop space, view the bookbinding and letterpress printing equipment, and meet instructors, book artists, and other special guests. Refreshments. 6 p.m.-midnight, *Hollander's*, Kerrytown, 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 741-7531.

★**Open Card and Board Gaming Night: The Underworld.** Every Friday. All invited to play any of the collectible card or board games that the Underworld carries—but you must find your own opponents. 6 p.m.-midnight, *Underworld*, 1214 South University. Free. 998-0547.

★**"A Gift for the Beloved."** December 6 & 13. All invited to participate in an upcoming Community Television Network documentary that explores how the themes of peace, love, freedom, and gratitude have transformed our lives and communities. Prepare a short monologue, poem, or performance art piece with or without costumes. Director is local reiki practitioner Robert Hughes. 6 p.m., *CTN*, 425 S. Main (Edison Bldg.). Free. 961-9866.

Holiday "Gala" Extravaganza: Ann Arbor Ski Club. Singles and couples invited to an evening in the elegantly decorated carriage house that features a prime rib dinner, homemade desserts, and dancing to music by a DJ (7 p.m.). Beer and wine included. Preceded by a social hour. 6 p.m.-midnight, *Wellers' Carriage House*, 555 W. Michigan Ave., Saline. \$50. *Preregistration required by December 2*. 428-8093.

★**15th Annual Festival of Lights: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** December 6-8. This popular community celebration offers a variety of family activities and gingerbread house displays in downtown shop windows. Tonight's special events begin with a **tree lighting** (6:30 p.m., next to the McKune House on Main at Orchard). Santa opens his workshop, where children can participate in crafts while waiting to share their Christmas wishes (7-8:30 p.m., UAW Hall). Also, a **living Nativity** complete with live animals (7-8:30 p.m., Main at Orchard). Finally, the community **carol sing** (9-9:30 p.m., train depot). 6:30-9:30 p.m., *downtown Chelsea*. Free. 475-1145.

★**Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Women's Gymnastics.** The U-M women's gymnastics team, a perennial Big 10 champion that finished 4th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2002-2003 season with an intrasquad meet. 7 p.m., *Cliff Keen Arena*, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

★**Ann Arbor Platform Tennis Club.** December 6 & 28. All invited to try this sport that combines tennis and racquetball, played outdoors on a raised, heated, fenced-in platform. Playing equipment provided; instruction available. Wear sneakers and dress in layers. Also, bring a dish for a **potluck**. 7-10 p.m., *Huron Valley Tennis Club*, 3235 Cherry Hill Rd. (take Plymouth Rd. to Dixboro Rd. & turn right on Cherry Hill Rd.). Free to first-time visitors. 761-6900.

★**Marcia Polenber and Ted Ramsay: Washington Street Gallery.** Gallery talks by these local artists, whose works are currently on display (see Galleries). Possibly the last time to visit this inviting gallery before it moves to its new, as-yet-undetermined home. 7 p.m., *Washington Street Gallery*, 215 E. Washington. Free. 761-2287.

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. 7-9 p.m., *Friends Meetinghouse*, 1420 Hill. \$5 requested donation. 996-1332.

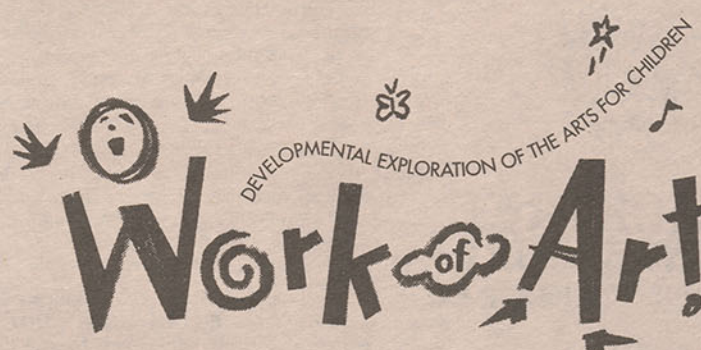
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- John

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6 FRIDAY EVENTS continued

★**Caroling Party: Kempf House Museum** (Ann Arbor Parks Department). All invited to gather at this historic home before heading out into the streets to sing Christmas carols, with accompaniment by the Salvation Army brass band. Carolers then return to the Kempf House for hot cider, cookies, and more caroling. Also, a chance to tour the Kempf House to view 19th-century Christmas decorations. 7 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994-4898.

★**Midnight Madness: Kerrytown Shops**. All invited to browse through trinkets, "pickle pinches," handmade paper, and other delights to be found in the Kerrytown shops. Live music by musicians TBA. Refreshments. 7 p.m.-midnight, Kerrytown Shops. Free admission. 662-5008.

★**"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association**. Every Friday through December 20. Local entertainers stroll the sidewalks beneath trees twinkling in 100,000 Christmas lights, with many stores open late. Entertainment includes performances by bagpiper **Herm Steinman**, Flint's **Antique Organ** street organ grinders, and the **Arbor Consort** madrigals chorus in period costume. Also, the **Choral Connection** Sweet Adelines chorus, **Huron High School A Cappella Choir**, and local **morris dancers** (December 6 & 13), the barber-shop quartet **Boys Night Out** (December 13 & 20), and the Sweet Adelines quartet **Harmony 4 Fun** (December 20). Tonight only: "Midnight Madness" sales, and Santa and Mrs. Claus give out candy canes. Kids can drop off letters to Santa at a special mailbox at 347 S. Main (next to Generations) through November 29, with "postage to the North Pole" compliments of the MSAA. 7-9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112.

★**"A Christmas Carol": U-M Clements Library**. Dickens scholar **Bert Hornback**, a U-M English professor emeritus, who moved back to town last year after teaching several years at Bellarmine College in Kentucky, presents his very popular annual reading of the 19th-century novelist's beloved Christmas fable. As is his custom, Hornback performs as if he is Dickens himself, wearing Victorian costume and standing at a lectern that is a replica of Dickens's own. Hornback has performed as Dickens throughout the world, and he so closely identifies with his alter ego that some people wonder if he doesn't secretly believe he is Dickens. Before the reading, Hornback usually indulges his political passions with a brief address on the current state of the world—something he insists Dickens, with his lively social conscience, would do if he were alive today. The program begins with a set of vintage holiday songs by a vocal trio made up of students of U-M music professor and Clements Library music curator **Joan Morris**. 7 p.m., Clements Library, 909 South University. Free. 764-2347.

★**"Cosi": U-M Basement Arts Theater**. See 5 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**First Friday Shabbas: Jewish Cultural Society**. A family-oriented program of candle lighting, song, and other Jewish cultural rituals. Followed by dessert and games of Jeopardy with questions on Jewish topics. All invited. 7:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975-9872.

★**"4th Annual Tuba Christmas."** All invited to listen to or perform in (bring your instrument) an outdoor concert of holiday carols performed on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of innumerable outdoor tuba concerts held across the nation and in Canada today, in memory of legendary tubaist **William Bell**. Registration and rehearsal at the U-M music school begins at 4:30 p.m. Music books available (\$10). 7:30 p.m., State at North University. Free (performers, \$5). 972-4113.

★**25th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University**. December 6-8. Sparkling with medieval splendor, this elegantly elaborate pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over sin and death features a cast of more than 100 Concordia students and staff and area children. Originating in medieval England and celebrated for centuries at Cambridge and Oxford, the Boar's Head Festival combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, with musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. It offers vividly dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. The peak of the festival is the presentation of a wild boar's head, a symbol of vanquished evil. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year, so get your tickets early. Note: the traditional dinner is not available to the public this year. 7:30 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$12 (ages 12 & under, \$8) in advance at the Krefl Center Box Office. 995-4612.

jazz

D. D. Jackson Chops and gravy

Well-educated jazz pianists tend to play like well-educated pianists—all chops and no gravy. Canadian-born Brooklynite D. D. Jackson proves that this does not have to be the case. His classical and jazz training, which includes music degrees from Indiana University and the Manhattan School of Music, shows up in an effortless, precise technique and an obvious knowledge of the full spectrum of musical history, from Bach to Cecil Taylor. But he also knows how to swing and how to move an audience. At Manhattan he had the good fortune to study with **Jaki Byard**, who synthesized the whole jazz piano tradition into a strong personal style. Jackson also learned from another great modernist pianist, **Don Pullen**. Byard and Pullen obviously provided models for creating a personal musical voice out of an eclectic blend of traditional influences.

When Jackson first began to attract public attention, it appeared that he had learned his lessons too well, for the influence of Pullen loomed large in his playing. With time, Jackson overcame these mannerisms and moved on in his own way, although he never forgets to tip his hat to his mentor, spicing his improvisations with recognizable Pullenisms. His remarkable progress is documented in some excellent recordings that he has made over the years under his own name and as a sideman to saxophonist **David Murray**.

Jackson made two widely reviewed but somewhat constrained CDs for RCA before returning to his old Canadian label, **Justin Time**, on which he promptly released a trio recording, **Sigame**. In many ways this work is the culmination of the opening chapters in Jackson's musical life. There is a sense of freedom and control that was absent from the RCA recordings, as well as an irresistible joy in creating music that jumps



right out of the speakers. The title means "Follow me" in Spanish, and the CD is permeated by Latin rhythms and romantic gestures. There are no standards here, only Jackson's own compositions, and the various pieces fall together into a larger emotional structure that is supported by strong rhythmic propulsion. Jackson has expressed a fondness for **Keith Jarrett**, with whom he shares a broad-hearted romantic spirit. I am more moved by Jackson, though, because his emotional outpourings have more discipline and are more adventurous, combining classic modern jazz with avant-garde sonorities and complex rhythms.

Most of the pieces on **Sigame** are performed by Jackson, bassist **Ugonna Okegwo**, and drummer **Dafnis Prieto**, a trio that practically stole the show at this year's **Ford Detroit Jazz Festival**. Jackson and Prieto return to the area, this time with **Hans Glawischnick** on bass, to play at the **Bird of Paradise** on Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7.

—Piotr Michalowski

★**"The Joy of Christmas in Song": Women's Chamber Chorus**. **Leslie Austin** directs this independent 24-member local women's chorus in a concert of Christmas music. Piano accompanist is **David Perampl**. Also, performances by the chorus's sextet, **Chamber Maids**. 7:30 p.m., West Side Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Donations accepted. 677-0678.

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society**. A chance to peer through the telescope on the Angell Hall roof to examine features of the night sky. Club members are on hand for Q&A. 8-10 p.m., 5th-floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left). Free. 936-3626.

★**1st Friday Square and Contra Dance**. Local caller **John Freeman** calls contra, square, and couple dances to live music by **Lickety-split**. All dances taught; beginners and experienced dancers welcome. No partner necessary. 8-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$7 (students, \$5) at the door. 665-8405.

★**Open Mike: Espresso Royale Caffe**. Every Friday. All poets and musicians invited. The open mike is preceded and followed by the **Upthegrove Reynolds Project**, an ensemble of 4 poets and 3 musicians that performs poetry set to music. 8-9:30 p.m., Espresso Royale, 214 S. Main. Free. 484-0249, 604-8587.

★**Winter Concert: The Sopranos**. Pop covers by this newest star in the ever-expanding galaxy of U-M student a cappella groups. The ensemble describes itself as an "all-female, student-run a cappella group with attitude." 8 p.m., East Hall auditorium, 525 East University. \$5. 332-0248.

★**"Almost Unplugged": Kerrytown Concert House**. U-M music school information technology director **Robert Newcomb**, the multi-instrumental founder of the local record label **Partial Music**, performs 4 original improvisatory compositions for guitar and sitar. Departing from his usual practice, Newcomb doesn't mix in original computer-generated music

but offers instead "just me channeling music spontaneously for amplified nylon string guitars and sitars." 8-9 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department**. Readings of original poetry and fiction by U-M creative writing instructors and grad students. Today: prose by **Andrew Cohen** and poetry by **Alethea Raybeck**, who describes her work as "a hybrid of narrative and lyric [with] a very focused vision of place." 8 p.m., Michigan Union Kuenzel Room. Free. 764-6330.

★**David Barrett: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church)**. Singer-songwriter and guitar virtuoso from Lansing best known as the composer of TV theme songs for several major sports events, from the NCAA basketball tournament to the 1998 Winter Olympics. Barrett's songs cover a variety of topics, including stories about children and criminals, golf and baseball, life on the road, and the things hound dogs would say if they could talk. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$10 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance & at the door. 662-4536, 665-8558.

★**George Bedard & the Kingpins and Billy Kirchen & Too Much Fun: The Ark Annual Rockabilly Summit**. This popular annual show features an all-star collaboration of bands led by 2 Ann Arbor-bred roots-rock musicians. A trio led by guitar genius **Bedard** and featuring bassist **Randy Tessier** and drummer **Rich Dishman**, the Kingpins have been Ann Arbor's—and one of the country's—best honky-tonk dance bands for more than a decade. They have released 3 critically acclaimed CDs, including the recent **Triple Crown**. An Ann Arbor native who first gained fame as the guitarist in **Commander Cody's Lost Planet Airmen**, Kirchen plays a rowdy mix of rockabilly, honky-tonk, blues, swing, and truck-driving songs. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at **Borders on Liberty**, **Herb David Guitar Studio**, the **Michigan Union Ticket Office**, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. December 6 & 7. See review, p. 77. The annual University Choral Union performance of Handel's beloved oratorio, featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led the next winter to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. This year's *Messiah* features the "Mozart" edition of the work, to which Mozart added additional orchestration. Thomas Sheets directs the chorus and members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano Janice Chandler, alto Bejun Mehta, tenor Eric Cutler, and baritone Dean Elzinga. 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$12-\$20 in advance at the Michigan League & (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. December 6 & 7. U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. \$5 at the door only. 763-5460, 763-5461.

"The Fantastic Toy Shop": EMU Music Department. EMU dance students present *The Fantastic Toy Shop (Boutique fantastique)*, EMU dance professor Sherry Jerome's reworking of this ballet created by Ballets Russes impresario Serge Diaghilev and set to Respighi's arrangement of music by Rossini. The score is performed by the EMU Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony. Also, the program is presented at 2 free children's concerts (reservations required) earlier today. The 10 a.m. show is sold out, but seats are still available for the 12:15 p.m. show. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$8 (students, \$4) in advance & at the door. 487-2282.

"The Image and the Moment": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. RC students present a multimedia performance of original theater work inspired by photographic images. 8 p.m., U-M Media Union Video Studio, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 647-4354.

*Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. See 5 Thursday. 5 & 8 p.m.

"The Yeomen of the Guard": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Phoenix Premieres II.Funny Stuff": Phoenix Productions. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Hamlet": U-M Theater Department. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Man of La Mancha": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Jim Dailakas: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

1st Friday Dance: Parents Without Partners. All adults invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s-90s music played by a DJ from Imperial Sound. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$7 (PWP members, \$5). 973-1933.

D. D. Jackson: Bird of Paradise. December 6 & 7. See review, left. A protégé of the late Don Pullen, this 34-year-old Canadian-born New York City-based pianist is regarded as one of the most daring and inventive pianists of his generation. Designated a Talent Deserving Wider Recognition by *Downbeat* and named 2000 Composer of the Year by the Canadian Jazz Report, Jackson recently released the CD *Sigame* on the Canadian Justin Time label. His trio includes the acclaimed young Cuban drummer Dafnis Prieto and acoustic bassist Hans Glawischning. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Bird of Paradise, 306 S. Main. Tickets \$15 (students with ID, \$10) in advance & at the door. 971-8300 (days), 662-8310 (after 7 p.m.).

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Naqoyqatsi (War as a Way of Life)" (Godfrey Reggio, 2002). December 6-12. This grim final chapter of Reggio's celebrated "qatsi" trilogy uses a blizzard of manipulated found images to examine war, sports, and the impact of technology on human behavior. Music by Philip Glass. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Of Global Interest. "Altitude: The Story of the First Cancer Survivor to Climb Mount Everest" (Heather O'Neal, 2002). December 6, 10, & 19 (different locations). Local adventure tour company owner O'Neal's inspirational documentary of intrepid Colorado climber Sean Swarner. FREE. 369-3107. 120 Eighth St., 8 p.m.

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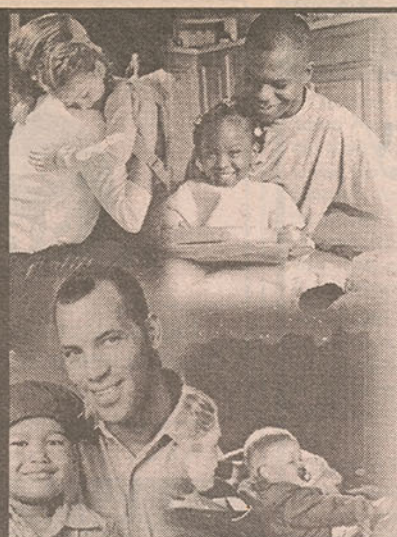
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6 FRIDAY EVENTS continued

U-M Center for Chinese Studies. "What Time Is It There?" (Tsai Ming-Liang, 2001). Poetic tale about a man who sells watches on the streets of Taipei and is haunted by a brief encounter with a young woman who leaves for Paris the next day. Mandarin & Taiwanese, subtitles. No children under 12 admitted. FREE. 764-6308. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 8 p.m.

7 SATURDAY

★**T'ai Chi.** Every Saturday & Sunday. Local martial arts instructor Gabriel Chin leads a session of t'ai chi, which combines an exaggeratedly slow martial art and meditation. 8 a.m., the Cube, north side of Michigan Union. Free. 761-3272.

Annual Craft Show: Saline Senior Citizens. Sale of handmade gifts, holiday decorations, crafts, pretzels, and baked goods. Lunch available. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saline Senior Citizen Activity Center, 7605 N. Maple, Saline. Free admission. 429-9274.

Saline Community Education Craft Show. Juried show of works by 135 crafters from around the Midwest. Christmas greens available. Bake sale, raffle, food concessions. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7286 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd., Saline. \$2. 429-5922.

★**"Washtenaw County Gulls": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** WAS member Rob French leads a trip (in the WAS field-trip van) to the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township, and possibly other area sites, to look for glaucous, Iceland, Thayer's, and other rare gulls. Nine gull species have been spotted in the county in recent years. 9 a.m., meet at Huron High School parking lot, 2727 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994-8418.

★**"The African Presence in the Bible": Amistad Church.** Every Saturday. All invited to join an informal discussion. 9 a.m., Amistad Church, 2730 Carpenter Rd. Free. 971-7626.

Huron Gun Collectors. December 7 & 8. Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Food concessions. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Admission \$4. (810) 227-1637.

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Senior Center. Sale of crafts made by seniors and local artisans. Lunch and snacks available. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., DSC, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 426-7737.

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Historical Society. December 7 & 8. Sale of decorations, toys, gifts, clothing, and holiday crafts. Bake sale. Proceeds benefit Dexter's historical museum. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Dexter Museum, 3443 Inverness at Fourth, Dexter. Free admission. 426-2519.

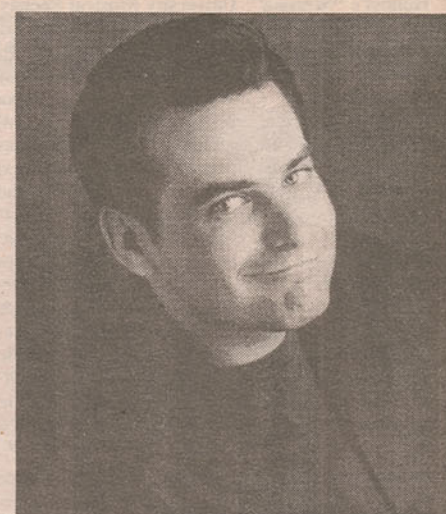
Annual Children's Festival and Holiday Bazaar: Rudolf Steiner School. The entire school is transformed into a children's festival. There's an activity room that features crafts for kids and a children-only gift room with donated goods priced for kids budgets. One room offers Waldorf toys, which emphasize natural materials and creative crafts and arts equipment. Also, puppet storytelling and an artisan market bazaar. Faculty and staff are on hand to answer questions about the school. Lunch available, including lasagna by Cousins Heritage Inn and dishes by area restaurants. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission (parking, \$2). 995-4141.

★**Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Saturday & Sunday. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. Note: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. 10 a.m. (Saturdays only) & 1 p.m. (both days), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 913-9851.

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new. Also, a separate room with children's books in mint condition (limit 3 children's books per family). 10 a.m.-4 p.m., AADL lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. Free admission. 327-4560.

Winter Sale: Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. Handwoven clothing, table linens, baskets, toys, beadwork, handmade paper, felted hangings, yarns, dolls, and quilts. Also, demos of fiberarts techniques. Proceeds from ornament sales benefit SAFE House. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 665-0703.

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. December 7 & 8. A popular annual sale held in a heated



Comedian Jimmy Dore makes his local debut at Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase Dec. 12-14.

tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics, in porcelain and both regular and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with toys, jewelry, and other gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 201 Hill. Free admission. 663-4970.

★**"Holiday Tile Extravaganza": Motawi Tile-works.** All invited to tour the studio, see an exhibit of clay art by Motawi artists, and make or glaze a free tile to take home, or have it shipped (\$5) with a card as a gift. Also, sale of Motawi tiles. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 170 Enterprise Dr. (off Jackson Rd. east of Baker). Free. 213-0017.

"The Himalayan Bazaar in My Garage." December 7, 14, & 21. Sale of a wide range of unique Nepali gift items by Heather O'Neal, who regularly travels to the Himalayas as owner of the local adventure tour business Of Global Interest. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free admission. 369-3107.

★**Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Parks Department.** All invited to help city parks natural area preservation division staff maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Also, city staffers identify native plants found in the park. Refreshments. Today: a trip to the Argo Nature Area to remove invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle. Long pants, gloves, and sturdy, closed-toe shoes recommended. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., meet at the Argo Nature Area parking lot on Longshore Dr. Free. 996-3266.

★**"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Exhibit Museum Discovery Day.** This family-oriented dinosaur program includes hands-on activities for kids, demonstrations, and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. Free. 764-0478.

★**19th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 6 Friday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

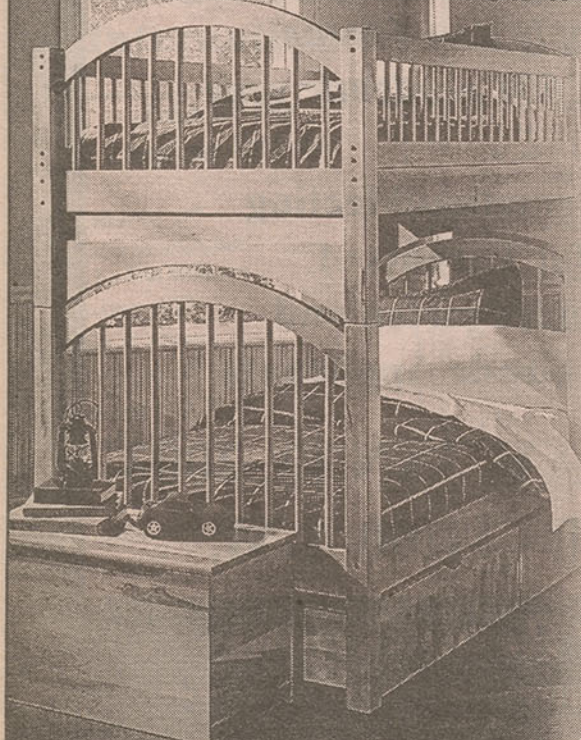
★**15th Annual Festival of Lights: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 6 Friday. Today's special events: a visit from Santa (1-4 p.m.) and a Yule Tree Gala (noon-5 p.m.) at the Chelsea Center for the Development of the Arts (400 Congdon), and a twilight home tour (ticket price TBA) that begins at 4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 121 E. Middle. Also, artists' shop, and live music throughout downtown. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

★**"The Problem of Prescription Drugs: Can You Afford Them?": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley.** Talk by U-M Center for Medication Use, Policy, and Economics director Pat McKercher. Refreshments. All invited. 10 a.m.-noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 975-0861.

★**Walk: Grex.** Every Saturday (different locations). All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk, either along trails in Bird Hills Park (December 7) or from Gallup Park through Nichols Arboretum (December 14, 21, & 28). 10:15 a.m., meet at the Newport Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Park (Dec. 7) & in Gallup Park parking lot (Dec. 14, 21, & 28), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 998-0194.

★**"Stories for the Young and the Young-at-Heart": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore.** Every Saturday. Storytelling program for kids (accompanied by an adult) with storyteller Alyssa Lazar. 10:30 a.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

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American Girl Club: Barnes & Noble. All girls ages 7-12 invited to delve into the world of the American Girl collection of historical dolls. This month's discussion book: *Kit's Surprise: A Christmas Story*, Valerie Tripp's tale about a young girl in 1934 whose family is feeling the pinch of the Depression. 10:30 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 973-0846.

"Saturday Morning Physics": U-M Physics Department. December 7, 14, & 21. Last of this semester's popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M and guest faculty on cutting-edge research. Today: U-M research fellow Risa Wechsler discusses "A Galaxy Timeline in an Accelerating Universe." Also this month: U-M research fellow Wendy Panero on "Planet Earth: Physics on a Global Scale" (December 14) and on "Peering into the Earth: From Earthquakes to Diamonds" (December 21). Breakfast refreshments. 10:30-11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 501 East University. Free. 764-4437.

"Mornings, Mochas, & Melodies": Pierce's Pastries Plus. Every Saturday except December 28. A series of concerts featuring up-and-coming local and visiting musicians. Today: a visit from St. Nicholas, who tells old-time Christmas stories with accompaniment by local harpist Laurel Federbush. Also this month: contemporary folk singer-songwriter Bob Skon (December 14) and a performer TBA (December 21). 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Pierce's Pastries Plus, 103 W. Middle St., Chelsea. Free. 327-2041.

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. Every Saturday. All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. 11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$4 per player; free for spectators. (Park entry fee: \$3 per vehicle.) 434-1615.

Story Hours: Nicola's Books. December 7, 14, & 28. An hour of stories or other kids activities. Today: mellow yet lively local kiddie-rocker Mr. Laurence performs holiday music for kids. Also this month: local storytellers Bev Black (December 14) and Tiana Marquez, who reads Kwanzaa stories (December 28). 11 a.m.-noon, Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

Children's Events: Liberty Borders. December 7, 14, & 28. Today: Borders staffers read holiday stories, plus a chance to make a take-home ornament. Also this month: ArtVentures helps kids make a kente paper weaving project (December 14), and a Borders staffer reads stories (December 28). 11 a.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

Judy Stone: Whole Foods Market. This self-described "nutrition magician" signs copies of *Take Two Apples and Call Me in the Morning*, her new book about the links between food, lifestyle, and disease. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Whole Foods, 2398 E. Stadium. Free. 971-3366.

Dexter's Victorian Christmas: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce. December 7 & 14. The Dexter of yesteryear is resurrected as carolers stroll the streets and shopkeepers and others dress in Victorian costume. Horse-drawn sleigh rides (nominal fee TBA) available throughout the day, and Santa is on hand to talk with kids and have photos taken with them for free. Live reindeer. Food for sale. Also, a Victorian tea (price TBA) at Cousins Heritage Inn, 3-5 p.m., and a used book sale at the Dexter District Library, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Today's special events: holiday bazaars, with demonstrations by a variety of craftspeople. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., gazebo downtown, near Monument Park, Dexter. Free admission. 426-7925.

Today's Brass Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House "Croissant Concert." A popular holiday tradition featuring this ensemble of area professional musicians that today performs "Christmas Through the Ages," a collection of sacred music from 4 centuries that includes works by Bach, Handel, Copland, Harbison, and others. Quintet members, who also offer commentary about the composers and works, are French hornist Steven Mumford, trombonist Brian Robson, tubaist Joseph DeMarsh, and trumpeters Jean Moorehead Libs and David Ammer. Croissants, coffee, and juice included. 11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25. Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

"Stars of the Harvest"/"Season of Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Every Saturday & Sunday through December 8. Stars of the Harvest (11:30 a.m. Saturdays only and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the stars visible in the fall sky and their associated mythology. Season of Light (12:30 p.m. Saturdays only and 2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about

various ancient and modern solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah. Note: A new planetarium show opens on December 14 (see listing). 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes. \$3. 764-0478.

Open House: Baron Glassworks. December 7 & 8. All invited to investigate this working glass studio and make an ornament or tile to take home. Noon-5 p.m., Baron Glassworks, 838 Railroad St., Ypsilanti. Free; materials fee TBA. 482-8829.

Psychic Fair: Psychic Visions Network. December 7, 13, & 27. Area psychics offer readings using tarot, astrology, numerology, crystals, and other methods. Fees vary but are usually around \$30 for a 30-minute (or longer) session. Noon-8 p.m. (Dec. 7) & 6 p.m.-midnight (Dec. 13 & 27), Comfort Inn, 2455 Carpenter Rd. \$5 admission. 320-7704.

Open House: Washtenaw County Historical Society Museum on Main Street. December 7, 8, 14, & 15. The museum is decorated in the style of a 19th-century Christmas to accompany *Toys of Yore*, an exhibit of old-fashioned toys and dollhouses. Also, sale of books on historical topics and gardens, toys, handmade crafts, and more. Noon-5 p.m., Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main. Free. 662-9092.

"Victorian Christmas": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. December 7 & 8. This 19th-century German immigrant family's pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. Natural decorations of cedar, pinecones, nuts, flowers, and herbs festoon the main house, where guides in period costume explain holiday preparations that typically would have been going on in each room. Christmas music tinkles from the parlor melodeon as aromas of wild game, squash, and potatoes waft from the kitchen's woodstove. Hot spiced cider and cookies are available in the farm's separate log cabin, decorated 1850s style. Also, a gift shop with old-fashioned toys, books, handmade soaps and candles, and other unique stocking stuffers. Refreshments. Noon-5 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. (From exit 153 on I-94, follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) \$1 admission. 426-9135.

German Family Christmas: Kempf House Museum (Ann Arbor Parks Department). December 7, 8, 14, & 15. This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical turn-of-the-century German American celebration of Christmas. 1-4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. \$1 (children under 12, free). 994-4898.


"Nature in Winter Walk": Ann Arbor Parks Department. City entomologist Barb Barton leads a walk through Barton Nature Area to look for signs of wildlife. 1:30-3:30 p.m., meet in the parking lot just west of the Main St./M-14 interchange. Free. 996-3266.

Open Rehearsal: Peter Sparling Dance Company. All invited to a sneak preview rehearsal of new works choreographed by company director Peter Sparling, to be premiered at Performance Network's TreeTown Festival May 28-June 1, 2003. *Les Parisiennes* is Sparling's response to the Degas and the Dance exhibit currently on display at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Set to 6 Chopin nocturnes, the work explores a view, common in Degas's era, of women as desirable, vulnerable, often tragic heroines. *Peninsula, Part I* is the fruition of Sparling's road trips all over Michigan to forests, lighthouses, schoolhouses, factories, and abandoned copper mines. The work examines the history of each place with a combination of live dancing and screenings of videotaped dancers and settings. Live musicians TBA perform a score by the inventive local "found music" composer Frank Pahl. 1:30-3 p.m., Dance Gallery Studio, 111 Third St. (off Huron). Free. 747-8885.


Cajun/Zydeco Jam. December 7 & 21. All musicians invited to join this lively jam. 2-5 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). Free. 213-5209.

"Hidden Lake Gardens Hike": Sierra Club Annual Newcomers' Meeting. All invited to join a leisurely hike of about 4 miles at this huge landscape arboretum south of Manchester, and check out the Christmas bazaar and luminarias there. 2 p.m., meet at City Hall to carpool. Free. 429-0671.

"Seasonal Stories": Waterloo Recreation Area. Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh presents a family-oriented storytelling program featuring seasonal tales about nature. 2 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take I-94 west to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Discovery Center is on the left.) Free. Space limited; preregistration required. \$4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit (\$20 per year). 475-3170.



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7 SATURDAY EVENTS continued

★**Tom Loncaric and Paul King: King's Keyboard House.** Jazz arrangements of Christmas carols and Christmas pop by the swing duo of local pianist Loncaric and Lansing-based crooner Paul King. 2:30-3:30 p.m., King's, 2333 E. Stadium (just west of Washtenaw). Free. 663-3381.

★**Fall Concert: U-M Gospel Chorale.** This coed U-M vocal gospel ensemble performs "Let Go, Let God," "Jesus Can Work It Out," "Let Everything That H's Breath Praise the Lord," and other gospel works. 3:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Free. 662-4536.

★**African American Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss *The Warmest December*, Bernice McFadden's melancholy novel about a struggling alcoholic who visits her dying, formerly abusive father for an agonized reconciliation. 4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. Information: Veleria Banks at (734) 942-6013.

★**Early Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** U-M harpsichord professor Edward Parmentier leads this music-student ensemble in baroque chamber works, including Couperin's *Les Nations*, Monteverdi's "Ecco, Silvio," and arias by J. S. Bach. Also, choral works by Peter Philips, Michael Praetorius, and Orlando di Lasso. 4 p.m., Blanche Anderson Moore Hall, 1100 Baitz. Free. 764-0594.

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset. 5 p.m.-12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1 1/4 miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332-9132.

★**Open Role-Playing Gaming Night: The Underworld.** Every Saturday. All invited to play any of the role-playing games that the Underworld carries, but you must find your own opponents. 6 p.m.-midnight, *The Underworld*, 1214 South University. Free. 998-0547.

★**"It's a Wonderful Life": 27th Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Holiday Ball.** Lavishly decorated gala with cocktails and a gourmet dinner, followed by ballroom dancing to the Detroit-area Simone Vitale Band. This annual fund-raiser is one of the largest and most successful in the country. Proceeds benefit the hospital's pediatric emergency care services. 6 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 Hewitt Rd. (just south of Rynearson Stadium), Ypsilanti. \$1,250 per couple. Reservations required. 712-4040.

★**"Così": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** See 5 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"Holiday Cabaret Show": Varsity Blues.** December 7 & 8. This popular Saline High School student troupe performs a potpourri of holiday songs and student-created cabaret numbers, skits, and pantomime. 7:30 p.m., Saline High School auditorium, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. Tickets \$5 at the door only. 429-2103, 429-1209.

★**Kol HaKavod Fall Concert: U-M Hillel.** The U-M's "Jewish cappella sensation" performs originals, Israeli rock, and traditional and contemporary Jewish music in Hebrew, English, Yiddish, and Ladino. 7:30 p.m., Hillel Green Auditorium. Cost TBA. 769-0500.

★**"Holiday Harmony": Huron Valley Harmonizers/County Connection Sweet Adelines.** Lynne Peirce directs the 50-voice Harmonizers men's chorus (see review, p. 87) and Kathy VanderWeele directs the 30-voice County Connection women's chorus in a concert of 4-part harmony barbershop singing. The choruses also perform a couple of tunes together. Their programs include everything from barbershop standards to show tunes and doo-wop. Also, performances by a Sweet Adelines guest quartet Novelty Shop and the Harmonizers quartet Party of Four. 3 & 7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets \$15 (seniors 60 & over and students K-12, \$12) in advance & at the door. (734) 434-2847.

★**25th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University.** See 6 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**1st Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance.** Robin Warner calls contra dances to live music by Dawn's Early Light. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Preceded by beginners'

lessons (7:45 p.m.). Also, an open jam for all musicians (3-6 p.m.). 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$8 (AACT-MAD members, \$7; students, \$5). 769-1052 (dance), 769-4220 (jam).

★**Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department.** Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the 40s through the 80s. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Baries, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. Tonight: cha-cha lessons. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. 8-10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. \$4. 996-3056.

★**Dexter Twirlers Square Dance Club.** December 7 & 21. Modern western square dancing to recorded music, with caller Glen Geer. Experienced dancers invited. Preceded by round dancing (7:30 p.m.). Refreshments. 8-10:30 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor Rd. at Fourth St., Dexter. \$7 per couple. 433-0308.

★**Fall Concert: U-M Dicks & Jones.** Concert of pop covers featuring "the soothing sounds of Dicks & Jones a cappella" by this 11-member coed ensemble whose current repertoire includes K-Otic's "I Really Don't Think So," N'SYNC and Phil Collins's "Trashin' the Camp," and David Gray's "Babylon." 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets \$6 at the door only. 763-1107.

★**"Deck the Decade": Vocal Arts Ensemble.** Ben Cohen leads this local chorus in an eclectic batch of carols ranging from medieval to contemporary Haitian songs. Also, Hanukkah songs and works by Scarlatti, Bruckner, and Durufle. 8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, N. Division at Catherine. Tickets \$10 (seniors & students, \$5; kids 12 & under, free) at the door only. 996-9635.

★**"Beethoven Piano Trios": Kerrytown Concert House.** December 7 & 8. The U-M music faculty trio of pianist Louis Nagel, violinist Stephen Shipp, and cellist Anthony Elliott presents the second in its series of concerts covering all of Beethoven's piano trios. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

★**Contemporary Directions Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Jonathan Shames leads this music-student ensemble in works by University of Southern California visiting composer Stephen Hartke, whom an *Independent* reviewer describes as a "maker of organic music, whose ingredient list is inclusive rather than elitist, [and who] has no fear of melody, of quoting and remolding folk traditions (including American blues), or of drawing from 20th-century musical ideals." 8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★**Paul Giallorenzo and Newspeak: Canterbury House.** Chicago trumpeter Giallorenzo joins the improvisational trio of bassist Jason Stein, violinist Regina Sadowski, and drummer and percussionist David Little. 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$5 donation (students, \$3). 665-0606.

★**Josh White Jr.: The Ark.** Known for his powerful, intense singing and his virtuosity on 6-string and 12-string guitars, White sings in a more modern style than his famous folksinger father. His blues, gospel, and folk repertoire includes many of his father's best-known songs as well as several upbeat, inspirational originals. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society.** See 6 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**"Amahl and the Night Visitors": Arbor Opera Theater.** Shawn MacDonald directs this local opera company in Gian Carlo Menotti's suspenseful 1-act musical, about a crippled boy and his impoverished mother who are visited by the 3 kings following the Christmas star. Amahl's mother, jealous to see such rich gifts headed for a newborn while her child has nothing, decides to snag a bit of gold while the kings sleep. Her theft is found out and forgiven but leads to a much greater present, which Amahl both gives and mysteriously receives. The simple tale, with its stark set, "socks home the original Christmas message," notes an organizer. Cast: Paul Brown, David Vaughn, Michael Parr, Timothy Markham, and the "golden-voiced" Suzanne Hansen. 8 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 Stadium. Free. 998-0860.

★**"Image of the American Family": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** RC students perform excerpts from 3 contemporary plays that treat various dysfunctional aspects of American family bonds, Christopher Durang's *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, Marsha Norman's *Night Mother*,

and Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*. 8 p.m., RC Auditorium, 701 East University, East Quad. Free. 647-4354.

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 6 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Yeomen of the Guard": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 5 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Phoenix Premieres II.Funny Stuff": Phoenix Productions. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Hamlet": U-M Theater Department. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Man of La Mancha": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Jim Dallakas: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Swing Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor. All invited to join members of this group that specializes in Savoy-style lindy hop. 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Michigan League Underground. Free. 763-4652.

Mose Allison: The Firefly Club. A chance to hear this legendary 75-year-old jazz pianist, singer, and composer in an intimate setting. Allison, who first came to fame in the late 50s as a kind of quintessential hipster, is best known for his acerbic, blues-steeped original compositions, including "I'm Not Talkin'," "Seventh Son," "Your Mind Is on Vacation," "I Don't Worry 'bout a Thing," and "One of These Days." Allison's latest Blue Note CD, *Gimcracks & Gewgaws*, is highlighted by "Old Man Blues," a characteristically wry inversion of his early composition "Young Man Blues," a song made famous by the Who in the 60s. 9 & 11 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$20 at the door only. 665-9090.

D. D. Jackson: Bird of Paradise. See 6 Friday. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

FILMS

M-Flicks. "Chungking Express" (Wong Kar Wai, 1994). Offbeat, kinetic, soulful portrait of the intertwined lives of a cop, a drug smuggler, and a waitress in a rundown section of Hong Kong. FREE. 763-1107, Natural Science auditorium (803 North University). 8 p.m. MTF. "The Last Kiss" (Gabriele Muccino, 2002). See 4 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "Naqoyqatsi (War as a Way of Life)" (Godfrey Reggio, 2002). See 6 Friday. Mich., times TBA. U-M Film and Video Studies. "Unforgettable" (Mark Marabate, 2002). Unsettling, dark tale about an increasingly scary night in a tiny northern Michigan cabin. Followed by Q&A with director and U-M alum Marabate. FREE. 763-4087, Natural Science auditorium (803 North University), 6 p.m.

8 SUNDAY

*Demonstration: Ring of Steel. Michigan Renaissance Festival master-at-arms Chris Barbeau, who's also a U-M and EMU theatrical combat instructor, offers a hands-on introduction to theatrical swordplay with a broadsword, rapier, and quarter-staff. No special clothes or equipment needed. Refreshments. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Student Theater Arts Complex, 1201 Kipke Dr. (behind Crisler Arena). Free. 763-4900.

*Book Club: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. All invited to join a discussion of *Days of Awe*, Achy Obejas's novel about a Cuban-born woman raised in Chicago who gradually discovers her Jewish heritage. 10 a.m.-noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975-9872.

*"Treating Depression": First Presbyterian Church Adult Education. December 8 & 15. Today: local social workers Kynne Lande and Virginia Koster discuss "Integrating Faith in the Treatment of Depression." Also: U-M Depression Center executive director John Greden discusses "The Mission and Work of the U-M Depression Center" (December 15). All invited. 11 Lewis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466.

*19th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 6 Friday. Also today: a Christmas concert (3-4 p.m.) with vocal and instrumental music, including vocal ensemble arrangements of "Carol of the Bells" and "Baby, What You Goin' to Be?" a solo violin arrangement of "Greensleeves," a brass ensemble arrangement of "A Mighty Fortress," a medley of traditional carols by the First Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir, and more. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

*14th Annual Children's Holiday Parade: Main Street Area Association. Kids of all ages and their families (strollers welcome) are invited to don a costume if they like and join a downtown street parade starring Santa and Mrs. Claus in their reindeer-powered sleigh, who lead floats, city fire engines, public school buses, costumed animal characters, and area

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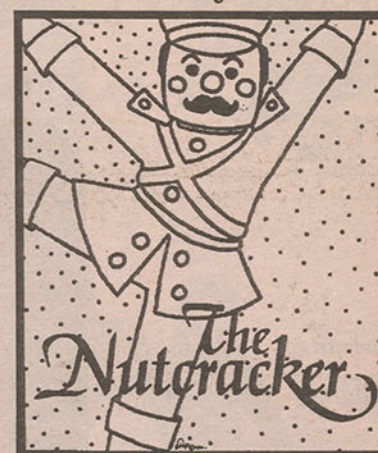
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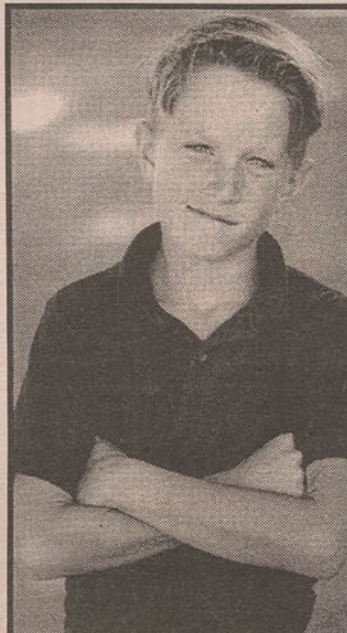
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8 SUNDAY EVENTS continued

high school marching bands (kazoos provided to observers). Scout and Brownie troops and groups of any kind can march together with an identifying banner. The parade starts at the Federal Building and goes down Liberty to Fourth Avenue to Washington to Main and winds up at a petting farm set up in the Detroit Edison parking lot at William. Afterward, free hot chocolate and cookies are available at Palio. Also, all invited to donate new toys for needy children to the SOS Community Toy Chest at 306 S. Main (next to Jules). Noon (assemble), 12:30 p.m. (parade), Federal Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112, ext. 32.

6th Annual Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. Tour of an inn, a church, an apartment complex, and 5 private homes, all decorated for Christmas. This year's highlight is the Parish House Inn, a showcase of painstaking renovations in Victorian style. Also, Cross Street Village senior apartments (the former Ypsilanti High School) and Emmanuel Lutheran Church, which displays stained glass and a 1950s theater-style organ. Highlights from the private homes on the tour include a spiral staircase, a 16-foot Christmas tree, collections of nutcrackers and angels, homemade stockings and ornaments by Saline schools art teacher Steve Kerr, and a fairytale-style room packed with what the owner calls "girly chic." Proceeds benefit Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. Followed by caroling and a Christmas tree lighting in Riverside Plaza. 12:30-5:30 p.m., various locations. Tickets \$10 in advance in Ann Arbor at Heslop's and John Leidy; in Ypsilanti at Quinn's Essentials, Me 'n' My Sister's, Country on the Avenue, and Haab's Restaurant; \$15 day of tour at the church and Cross Street Village. 487-9669.

"Watercolor Painting": Ann Arbor Art Center. A chance for those new to the art to give it a whirl with instructor Linda Brokaw. 1-2:30 p.m., AAAC Art Factory, 220 Felch. \$10. 994-8004.

"Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Cobblestone Farm Association. Re-creation of mid-19th-century Christmases, with a new emphasis this year on displays illustrating the different religions, customs, and cultures that shaped Ann Arbor. Also, craft activities for kids and entertainment from the Christmas celebrations of a variety of cultural traditions. 1-5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). \$2 (families, \$8; children under 3 & CFA members, free). 994-2928.

***Kids Open Mike: Oz's Music.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. Note: The open mike has returned to its original location. 2 p.m., Oz's Music, 1920 Packard. Free. Reservations required. 662-8283.

Alternative Holiday Fair: First Baptist Church/Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. It features handmade arts and crafts, jewelry, and holiday decorations from Third World countries. Also, a chance to participate in the highly acclaimed Heifer International project by helping to pay for farm animals (some on hand and available for petting) for needy overseas farm families. Proceeds benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. 2-6 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663-1870.

***Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum.** December 8, 14, & 15. 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. 2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. Free, but limited to the first 15 people who sign up for each tour. 764-0478.

***Sunday Tours: U-M Museum of Art.** December 8, 15, & 29. Docent-led tours of different exhibits. Today: Pat Steir's installation. Also this month: Masterworks of Chinese Painting (December 15), and The New York School (December 29). 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764-UMMA.

"Holiday Tasting": Main Wine Club. All invited to taste different champagnes, ports, and dessert wines. "These events are usually a lot of fun. There is no snobbishness or snootiness—there may be a lot of loud arguing, though," says club director Gini Iyengar. 2-5 p.m., The Club Above (3rd floor of the Heidelberg), 315 N. Main. \$20 (members, \$10) in advance at the Main Party Store, \$25 at the door.

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All invited to an afternoon of dancing contras and the Virginia reel. Also, live music, party games, and storytelling. John Freeman, Kerry Lyn Freeman, and David Williams lead to music by musicians David West, Donna Baird, and Mark Williams. 2-4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$6 (family, \$10). 665-8405.

***Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. 2-5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 747-9644, 761-1451.

"Christmas Jazz Festival": Peace Lutheran Church. Jazz renditions of sacred and secular Christmas music by the Paul Keller Ensemble, a popular local group led by bassist Keller. Desserts from Cousins Heritage Inn. Proceeds benefit Fairy Godparents, a local nonprofit that collects furniture and clothing for those in need. 2 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 8260 Jackson Rd. \$7.50 (students, \$5; families, \$20) in advance & at the door. 424-0899.

"Holiday Cabaret Show": Varsity Blues. See 7 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Yeomen of the Guard": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Hamlet": U-M Theater Department. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Phoenix Premieres II.Funny Stuff": Phoenix Productions. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

"Man of La Mancha": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 2 & 7 p.m.

***Astrology Study Group of Washtenaw County.** All invited to chat about astrology, share resources, delineate charts, and hear reports on astrology-related matters. 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Free. 434-4555.

***"Masterworks of Chinese Painting: In Pursuit of Mists and Clouds": U-M Museum of Art.** Talk by UMMA Asian art senior curator Maribeth Graybill, in conjunction with a current exhibit. Introductory remarks by the collection's owner, local Chinese painting scholar James Cahill. 3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764-UMMA.

***Ann Arbor Concert Band.** Lloyd Whitehead conducts this community ensemble in a program of holiday favorites. Refreshments. 3 p.m., Huron High School Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. Free. 663-4451.

***Symphony Band: U-M School of Music.** Michael Haitcock and Timothy Reynish lead this music-student ensemble in a concert highlighted by David Dzubay's *Myaku*, a dark, engaging fanfare built around the idea of the number 7 and a rhythmic pulse. Also, contemporary composer Nicolas Maw's *American Games*, excerpts from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and Percy Grainger's soundscape of the Australian countryside, *Colonial Song*. 3 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 764-0594.

"Holiday Joy": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus. Rebecca Vlisides directs this local chorus in a concert of holiday favorites and works by Bach, Handel, John Rutter, and Bob Chilcott. Also, a sing-along. Accompanist is local pianist Joyce Reese. 3 p.m., Slauson Middle School. Donation. 712-1348.

15th Annual Festival of Lights: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. See 6 Friday. The final day of the festival begins with a concert by the Chelsea Chamber Players, who perform Mozart's Piano Quartet in G Minor and Schubert's *Trout* Quintet. Refreshments. The festival concludes at 7 p.m. with a free *Holiday Festival of Carols* at the Chelsea Retirement Community, 809 W. Middle St. 3 p.m., First Congregational Church, 121 E. Middle, Chelsea. Tickets \$12.50 (seniors, \$10; ages 17 & under, \$5) available in advance & at the door. 475-1145.

***25th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University.** See 6 Friday. 4 p.m.

"Beethoven Piano Trios": Kerrytown Concert House. See 7 Saturday. 4 p.m.

***"A Choral Celebration": EMU Music Department.** The local men's chorus Measure for Measure joins the EMU University Choir, Chamber Choir, and Women's Chorus for a program of Hebrew, Christian, and multicultural choral music. Also, performance by EMU university organist Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra and EMU organ students. 4 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

***Queer Fiction Book Club.** All invited to discuss *The Story of the Night*, Lambda Award-winning author Colm Toibin's portrait of an Argentinian man coming to grips with his homosexuality, set against the backdrop of the Falkland Islands war. 4:30-6 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 663-0036.

***"Booked for Murder": Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss 2 murder mysteries with a Victorian theme, Cynthia Peale's *The Death of Colonel Mann* and Anne Perry's *The Face of a Stranger*. 5-6 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 769-2149.

barbershop singing



The Huron Valley Harmonizers Middle America

The last annual concert mounted by the Huron Valley Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America and its performing arm, the all-male Huron Valley Harmonizers, lived up to barbershop's nostalgic image and high musical standards.

Emcee Art Holst, a former football referee, opened up with a series of one-liners that came straight from Johnny Carson's playbook. The Huron Valley Harmonizers, an all-male choir with a female director, Lynne Peirce, sang some numbers, including a love song pantomimed by a pair of ballroom dancers. Then individual quartets and other smaller ensembles took the stage one by one, their three-song sets punctuated by more humor from Holst and by a series of recurring skits performed on minisets at either side of the stage—slapstick routines about a practical-joker clown, and reenacted episodes of *The Bickersons*. One of these smaller ensembles was a guest group from the northern Lower Peninsula, the Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir, who offered a variety of familiar tunes retexted to refer to the joys of fishing in Michigan and rendered with a sheer vocal artistry hard to find in small-town Michigan in any other tradition. Another group was a gospel octet from suburban Detroit called

Seek to Be. Gospel and barbershop have influenced each other mightily along the way. Each of the seven or eight small groups that performed had its own style and look. The choir came back at the end, humming as Holst intoned, "Every year, more and more, our annual show becomes a reunion of families and a celebration of friendship."

Although it's nearly invisible on the radar screens of highbrow cultural observers, barbershop is folk music of a high order. With talents honed by a schedule of regional and national contests, some quartets make barbershop's complex harmonies their own and attain the comfort that comes with musical mastery: Washtenaw County's own all-seniors quartet, New Wrinkle, headed for California last year to represent the Huron Valley at the national level. And the music (with hidden African American origins) seems an unheralded linchpin of the culture of middle America. The ads in the program are for the businesses that keep the county and the country rolling along—insurance agents, plumbers, hardware stores. It's music at the local level, and if you've ever wondered what happened to the guys who sang solos in your high school choir, it may be that they're singing barbershop somewhere.

The Huron Valley Harmonizers and their female counterparts, the County Connection Sweet Adelines chorus, hold their annual concerts jointly at Washtenaw Community College on Saturday, December 7.

—James M. Manheim

★**"The Great 'O' Antiphons": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** A traditional program, in the style of a "Lessons and Carols," of Advent Scripture readings and choral music that tell of the awaited Messiah. Each of the 7 readings is preceded by one of the Advent chants known as the "O" Antiphons, which are performed by members of the church choir both in the original Gregorian chant and in Peter Hall's contemporary version, and followed by a congregational singing of an anthem or carol. 6 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra: University Musical Society. Keith Lockhart leads this 117-year-old ensemble, said to be the most recorded orchestra in the world, in a lively concert of light classics, traditional carols, and contemporary holiday music. The program includes Mozart's arrangement of Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus, "The Adoration of the Magi" from Respighi's *Three Botticelli Pictures*, and the prologue from Vaughan Williams's *Hodie*. Also, old favorites such as "White Christmas," "A Visit from Saint Nicholas," "O Holy Night," and a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" by a surprise celebrity narrator. Guest performers are the California State University Singers, directed by John

Alexander, and award-winning Canadian soprano Kathleen Brett. Refreshments served on the main floor, and the concession stands are open. 6 p.m., Crisler Arena. Tickets \$15-\$50 in advance at the Michigan League & (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

★**Ann Arbor Film Fans.** December 8 & 22. All invited to join other film lovers for an informal discussion of favorite movies. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 623-2096.

★**"10 Things I'd Rather Do Than Watch TV": Dreamland Theater.** Premiere screening of local artist and alternative health care practitioner Robert Hughes's 12-minute film, which includes autobiographical footage dating back 30 years, about alternatives to watching TV. Also, short films by other local filmmakers. Followed by a reception with Hughes and the other filmmakers. 7 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Free. 485-3454.

★**"29th Annual Holiday Ragtime Bash": First Unitarian Church.** This popular annual tradition always draws "smiling sellout crowds," according to organizers, due to its feast of piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for

Some Things Change;
Some Things Are Same Old;

Duke Requests You Please Turn To Page 91



Not pictured: Amy and Kelly

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8 SUNDAY EVENTS continued

good measure. Tonight's top-notch performers include the **Elite Syncopators**, an Indianapolis ragtime quartet, led by pianist Terry Parrish, that performs works by Scott Joplin, James Scott, Tom Turpin, Lucky Roberts, and Parrish originals. Also, returning Lapeer boogie-woogie pianist **Bob Milne**, Detroit pianist and acclaimed ragtime historian **Mike Montgomery**, and recent U-M grad Kent "**Cannonball**" Eshelman, whom organizers describe as "pianist extraordinaire." 7:30 p.m., *First Unitarian Church*, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$12) in advance at *Nicola's Books* & at the door. 665-6158.

Lynn Miles: The Ark. Young Canadian singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist who writes rootsy, emotionally intense pop-folk storysongs. She sings in a voice that's been called "warm, plangent, and edgy in a very human way," and her best songs are known for their incisive poetry and emotional power. "Lynn Miles makes being forlorn sound like a state of grace," says *New York Times* music critic Jon Pareles. 7:30 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, *Herb David Guitar Studio*, the *Michigan Union Ticket Office*, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music. University of Illinois music professor emeritus Thomas Siwe leads this music-student ensemble in a concert highlighted by 2 world premieres for percussion and jazz ensemble by U-M music lecturer Roland Vazquez. Also, a work that mixes Asian and Western elements by Alan Hovhaness, a Latin-influenced work by Carlos Chavez, and an innovative piece by Henry Cowell. 8 p.m., *U-M Music School McIntosh Theater*, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Satin Rouge" (Raja Amari, 2002). December 8, 10, 12, & 14. A widowed Tunisian seamstress rediscovers her sexuality via belly dancing in an underground club, in what the *New York Times* calls a "feel-good feminist fable." Arabic, subtitles. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "**Naqoyqatsi** (War as a Way of Life)" (Godfrey Reggio, 2002). See 6 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

9 MONDAY

19th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 6 Friday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

"Degas and the Dance": U-M Center for European Studies "Taste of Europe." Slide-illustrated discussion led by a Detroit Institute of Arts representative, in conjunction with the current DIA Degas exhibit. Bring a bag lunch. Noon, 1644 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647-2743.

"Gala Kickoff": American Heart Association. All invited to nibble hors d'oeuvres and learn about ways to help organize the AHA's big gala on June 6, 2003. Cash bar. 5-6:30 p.m., *Gandy Dancer restaurant*, 410 Depot St. Free. Preregistration requested. (248) 827-4214, ext. 533.

"Virtual Art: From Illusion to Immersion": U-M School of Art & Design. Humboldt University (Berlin) art historian Oliver Grau discusses his absorbing history of virtual reality technology. The book discusses ancestral "illusory spaces" such as 3-D movies, trompe l'oeil paintings and murals, carefully planned gardens that create optical illusions, and other techniques dating back to antiquity. 5:15 p.m., 2216 Art & Architecture, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 936-2082.

Dawn Finley and Mark Wamble: U-M Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Talks by these principals in the Houston-based Interloop A/D company, who are noted for their modernistic multiuse design for the renovation of Houston's immense Jones Plaza. 6 p.m., *Art & Architecture auditorium*, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764-1300.

"Show and Tell": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table. Club members show and briefly discuss such Civil War-related objects as diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Previous highlights included a set of very rare engraved slave tags and a stirring performance of period songs. Public invited. 7 p.m., *St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center*, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). Free. 930-0617.

"Human Exploration and Settlement of Mars": Michigan Mars Society. Talk by a club member TBA. All invited. 7 p.m., 1024 FXB, 1320 Beal, North Campus. Free. 222-9423.

"Christmas Potluck": U-M Alva Gordon Sink Alumnae Group. A chance to meet and chat with members of this group that funds scholarships for U-M students. All invited. 7 p.m., 4484 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 761-3740.

The Barony of Cynnabar. Every Monday except December 2. All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism to work on recreating different aspects of medieval culture, including combat, dancing, singing, clothing, and many other arts and crafts. 7 p.m., 1311 EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. Information at www.cynnabar.org.

Medieval History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. Motte & Bailey co-owner Paul Hare leads a discussion of *Book of the Medieval Knight*, Stephen Turnbull's history of 14th- and 15th-century warfare, with a focus on the Hundred Years' War and the War of the Roses. Refreshments. 7-9 p.m., *Motte & Bailey*, 111 E. Ann. Free. 669-0451.

"Focus on the Future: Joining Hands for Success": Ann Arbor Public Schools/Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce. A large career information fair that offers students in grades 8-12 a chance to pick up info and chat with people who work in a wide range of occupations, from accounting, construction, and engineering to film production, interior design, journalism, law enforcement, radio, and tourism. The program begins with a talk by Schoolcraft College career counselor Judith Kaufman. Also, information about the AAPS Career Pathways Program. Refreshments. 7-8:30 p.m., *Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg.*, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 994-8139.

"Eating Is a Moral Act": St. Mary Student Parish. Michigan Catholic Rural Life Coalition director Paul Stankewitz discusses the ways our food choices affect food industry workers and the planet. 7:30 p.m., *St. Mary's*, 331 Thompson. Free. 663-0557.

"Chiropractic Talk Series": Gateway Chiropractic. December 9, 16, & 23. Local chiropractors Diane Babalas and Steve McLean discuss chiropractic-related topics TBA. 8 p.m., 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 668-6110.

Scandinavian Couples Dancing: Multicultural Folk Arts Center. Traditional turning couples dances, mainly from Sweden and Norway, including hambo, schottis, Boda polska, and Telespringar. With live music by Rumpetroll, a local band led by fiddler Bruce Sagan. All dances taught by Sagan and Suzanne Schluederberg. No partner necessary. Hard-soled shoes strongly recommended. All invited. 8-10:30 p.m., *Gretchen's House Learning Center gym*, 2340 Oak Valley Dr. \$5. 994-9307.

EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department. John Dorsey and Mike Hall direct these 2 music-student ensembles in a program of upbeat jazz standards and contemporary works. 8 p.m., *Pease Auditorium*, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Jonathan Shames leads this music-student group in selections from Smetana's set of vivid tone poems *Ma vlast* and Schubert's Symphony no. 1, written when the composer was a teenager. 8 p.m., *U-M Michigan Theater*. Free. 764-0594.

Greg Trooper: The Ark. Local debut of this little known but highly regarded Nashville-based singer-songwriter whose songs have been recorded by the likes of Steve Earle, Robert Earl Keen, Billy Bragg, and Vince Gill. His 1998 CD, *Popular Dreams*, is regarded as one of the defining works of the alt-country genre, and his new CD, *Straight Down Rain*, is a collection of deftly etched, deeply felt stories and confessions set in a variety of rootsy musical idioms, from honky-tonk to swamp-rock to Celtic-flavored country. 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, *Herb David Guitar Studio*, the *Michigan Union Ticket Office*, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

FILMS

MTF. "**The Last Kiss**" (Gabriele Muccino, 2002). See 4 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "**Naqoyqatsi** (War as a Way of Life)" (Godfrey Reggio, 2002). See 6 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

10 TUESDAY

"Managing Threatened and Endangered Species on Your Site": Stewards' Circle of the Huron River Watershed (Huron River Watershed Council). All invited to join local volunteer and professional stewards for an informal discussion. 7:30-8:30 a.m., *Bruegger's Bagels*, 709 North University. Free (pay for your own breakfast). 769-5123.

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Local vocal ensemble Sacred Song performs sacred songs from spiritual traditions worldwide at Genesis Dec. 14.

Holiday Bazaar: Fannie J. Coppin Women's Missionary Society. Sale of craft items, Christmas decorations, baked goods, white elephant treasures, and more. Lunch available. Proceeds benefit mission programs. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free admission. 663-3800.

"Breathing Techniques and Meditation": U-M Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research Center. Talk by local homeopath Dennis Chemin. Noon-1 p.m., U-M Mott Hospital MCHC auditorium. Free. 998-7715.

"Fra Filippo Lippi: The Carmelite Painter": Ann Arbor District Library "Booked for Lunch." U-M art history professor Megan Holmes discusses her richly illustrated new book about the renowned 15th-century Florentine friar and painter. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea provided. Taped for repeat broadcasts on cable channel 17. 12:10-1 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department. December 8 & 11. Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include a chance to make recycled paper. 3-5 p.m. (Dec. 10) & 10 a.m.-noon (Dec. 14), Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994-2807.

"Creation of the University's Museums: Ornithologist J. B. Steere's 1870 Worldwide Expedition": U-M Detroit Observatory Lecture Series. Talk by U-M biology professor emeritus Thomas Moore. 3 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory meeting room, 1398 E. Ann St. at Observatory St. Free. 763-2230.

"Is Veiling That Simple? Complexities of Meaning and Politics": Center for Middle Eastern & North African Studies. Talk by U-M Middle Eastern studies visiting lecturer Sadwa El-Guindi. 6:30-8:30 p.m., 1324 East Hall, 525 East University. Free. 764-0350.

"Community Forum on the Question of Divestment from Israel": Ann Arbor Friends Meeting. Four local speakers TBA present arguments for and against a proposal that the city divest from companies that do business in Israel. Followed by a public comment period. 6:45-8:45 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 761-7435.

"Managing Chronic Pain": People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series. Talk by local naturopathic physician Michele Loewe. 7-8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore and Tearoom, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994-4589.

"Cave-Dweller Diet": Wholistic Doc. Local chiropractor Darren Schmidt discusses the benefits of adopting a hunter-gatherer diet. 7-8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 302-7575.

"Fahrenheit 451": Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group (U-M English Department). Screening of Francois Truffaut's 1966 film version of Ray Bradbury's novel about a grim, anti-literature future. Followed by pizza and discussion of the movie and novel. 7-9 p.m., conference

center, 1318 Markley Hall (enter on the north side), 1503 Washington Hts. Free. 764-2553.

Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*, William McDonough and Michael Braungart's plan for eliminating waste entirely by changing the recycling system. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 332-0207.

Introduction to Kung Fu. Local martial arts instructor Ryan Wilson demonstrates this martial art as a means of self-awareness, self-defense, and energy development. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. \$7 suggested donation. 975-9429.

Holiday Concert: Our Own Thing Chorale. December 10 & 15 (different locations). Willis Patterson leads this vocal ensemble in a concert of African American Christmas music highlighted by William Still's *Christmas in the Western World*, a long, varied work stitched together from traditional Christmas songs Still collected throughout the Americas. Also, Bruce Saylor's *Rockin'* and Christmas spirituals. Featured soloist is Alice Tillman. 7:30 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free. 663-3800.

"What Positive Things Happened in Your Business This Year That You Can Share with Others for a Great 2003?": National Association of Women Business Owners. Short talks by club members. Also, a potluck (bring a dish to pass). All invited. 7:45-9 a.m., 102 Cleary University, 3601 Plymouth Rd. Free. 663-8374.

EMU Collegium Concert: EMU Music Department. Anthony Iannaccone directs EMU music faculty and students in a program of 17th- and 18th-century choral and instrumental music, including Handel's *Concerto Grosso in G Minor* and his *Chandos Anthem*, Telemann's *German Magnificat* and the *Overture in D major* from his *Tafelmusik*, and works by Monteverdi TBA. 8 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

Shemekia Copeland: The Ark. The 23-year-old daughter of blues guitar legend Johnny Copeland has already established herself as one of the most compelling voices of contemporary blues. Her singing combines a sometimes astonishing power with the wickedly mercurial vocal personality characteristic of blues. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 3 Tuesday. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "After the War, Before the Wall" German Film Series. "Sissi" (Ernst Marischka, 1955). December 10 & 11. Idyllic tale of the Bavarian princess who falls in love with Austrian emperor Franz Josef and marries him amid Viennese baroque and Alpine splendor. German, subtitles. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater,



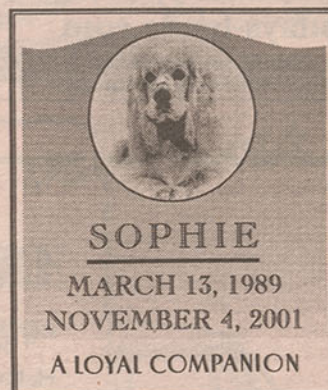
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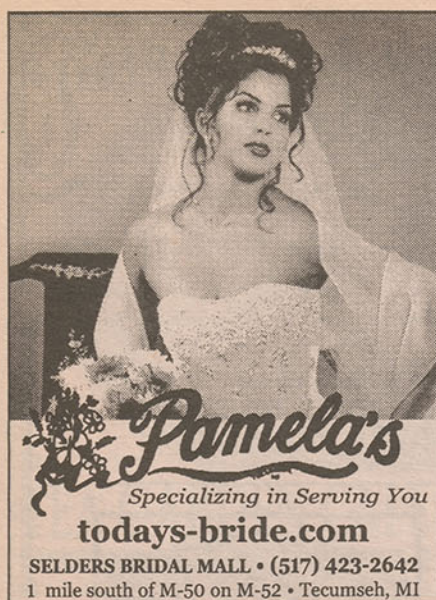
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10 TUESDAY EVENTS continued

times TBA. "Naqoyqatsi (War as a Way of Life)" (Godfrey Reggio, 2002). See 6 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "Satin Rouge" (Raja Amari, 2002). See 8 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. Of Global Interest. "Attitude: The Story of the First Cancer Survivor to Climb Mount Everest" (Heather O'Neal, 2002). See 6 Friday. Conner O'Neill's, 318 S. Main St., 5 p.m. U-M Pierpont Commons. "The Shop on Main Street" (Jan Kadar and Elmar Klos, 1965). Moving, intimate, Oscar-winning melodrama, set during WW II as the Nazis inch closer, of a Slovak man who oversees a tiny button shop run by an elderly Jewish widow. Czech, subtitles. FREE. 647-6838. Pierpont Commons, 2101 Bonisteel. 7:30 p.m. The Underworld. "Anime Night." See 3 Tuesday. The Underworld, 9-11 p.m.

11 WEDNESDAY

★"Delirium: New Ways Toward Prediction and Treatment": U-M Health System. Talk by U-M psychiatry professor Barbara Kamholz. 10:30-noon, U-M Mott Hospital MCHC auditorium. Free. 936-5891.

★"Sharing of Wild Adventures": Wild Ones. Club members swap exciting "accounts [and photos] of their adventures with native plants." Also, potluck. Bring photos and a dish to pass. All invited. Note earlier time. 6:30 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 769-6981.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Bowling Green. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$21. 764-0247.

★Ann Arbor Magic Club. All amateur and professional magicians invited to an evening of socializing and discussion of the magical arts. 7 p.m., Domino's Farms, Lobby G, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. 482-9253.

"Discover Reiki." Local reiki practitioner Robert Hughes introduces this hands-on technique for promoting mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being. 7-9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Donations welcome. 961-9866.

★Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club. All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys, including the "Lego Sumobot," the "Jeep Sumobot," and a new type of electronic controller. Kids welcome. 7 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Jackson Rd., behind KFC). Free. 332-1000.

★"Crime Solving Techniques": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by veteran Ann Arbor Police Department detective Richard Kinsey. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★Nicholas Cotsonika: Liberty Borders. This local journalist, who covers hockey for the Detroit Free Press, reads from *Hockey Gods*, his inside story of the Red Wings. Also, signing. 7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

★ARROW Communication Association Amateur Radio Club. All invited to join this friendly club to discuss ham radio equipment and upcoming activities. 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free to visitors (\$20 annual dues). 769-1616.

★Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center. All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Aaron offers a talk and answers personal and universal questions. Also, socializing. 7:30 p.m., 3455 Charing Cross Rd. (off Packard just west of US-23). Free, but donations are accepted. 971-3455.

★Romantic Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble. All invited to discuss *Summerhouse*, Jude Deveraux's deft tale about 3 40-something women who reunite for a weekend in a summerhouse in Maine, where they reflect on the paths their lives have taken since they first met 20 years earlier and are offered an unexpected opportunity to relive the choices they have made. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-0846.

★Choir Concert: Huron High School. Richard Ingram and Bonnie Kidd lead the group in Frank Ticheli's *There Will Be Peace*, Rupert Lang's *Agneau de Dieu*, and other works. 7:30 p.m., Huron High School Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. Free. 994-2040.

"La Fiesta de la Posada": First Presbyterian Church. Note: At press time, today's concert was sold out and an additional concert was tentatively scheduled for December 12. The legendary modern jazz composer-pianist Dave Brubeck comes to town to perform his Christmas cantata, a joyous work suffused with Latin American musical styles and har-

monies that Brubeck composed in 1975 to celebrate the restoration of a Spanish mission in California. For 13 years it opened Advent season at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, and it has been performed at many churches around the country. Brubeck and his trio are joined by the church's adult and children's choirs and soloists and a mariachi band made up of local musicians. Soloists are soprano Julia Broxholm, bass-baritone Philip Pierson, and an alto and tenor TBA. The 2-hour program concludes with a jazz set by Brubeck's trio, which includes his sons, guitarist Chris Brubeck and drummer Dan Brubeck. 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. \$15 in advance & at the door. 662-4466.

★Orchestra Concert: Greenhills School. Deborah Henderson leads the middle and high school orchestras in performances of works by Respighi, Britten, and Rossini. 7:30 p.m., Greenhills Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4000.

★"The Path of Instantaneous Process: The Foundation Practice of Dzogchen": The Aro Gar of Ann Arbor. Talk by Nga-la Rig-dzin Dorje, an ordained ngakpa (Tantric practitioner) in the Aro gTer lineage of the Nyingma School of Vajrayana Buddhism and spiritual director of Buddhist centers throughout Europe. He is the author of *The Dangerous Friend: The Teacher-Student Relationship in Vajrayana Buddhism*. 8 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 426-2527.

HEDKIKR: Canterbury House. An edgy interactive multimedia performance by this Australian trio of drummer Darren Moore, reedist and electronics whiz Lindsay Vickery, and dancer Danielle Micich, who wears a Miburi MIDI jumpsuit linked to a video projector so that Micich's motions also generate random images that complement the musicians' acoustic and electronic improvisations. 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$5 donation (students, \$3). 665-0606.

Marianne Faithfull: Clear Channel Entertainment. A minor pop star in the 60s best known for her version of the Rolling Stones' "As Tears Go By," Faithfull resurfaced in 1979 with *Broken English*, a brilliant collection of bitter, biting songs about personal and political betrayal sung in a menacingly cracked and corrosive growl. Her subsequent recordings, including the superb new release *Kissin' Time*, back away somewhat from the frightful intensity of *Broken English*, but they have secured her reputation as a keen-witted, sharp-tongued songwriter of wrenching honesty and an unconventional compelling chanteuse. And she even portrayed God on the BBC comedy *Absolutely Fabulous*. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$39.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★"James Johnson's 'De Organizer'": U-M School of Music. Kenneth Kiesler leads the massed forces of the University Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Choir, University Choir, & Orpheus Singers in the 2nd production ever of this 1-act blues opera by the prominent African American composer whose "Charleston" touched off the 20s dance craze. The polemical plot (with a libretto by Langston Hughes) concerns the organization of a labor union, and the opera was mysteriously "lost" after its 1940 debut, except for one beautiful excerpt that tantalized music scholars for decades. U-M music theory professor James Dapogny searched for the work unsuccessfully in 1989 and then accidentally discovered the vocal score a few years ago when some archived U-M papers were exhibited. After coaxing an additional previously unseen song (which Johnson wrote after the opera's first performance but never added) from the composer's grandson, Dapogny composed period incidental music to complete the reconstruction performed tonight. Also, Orff's popular *Carmina Burana*. Note: *De Organizer* is also performed December 3 at Detroit's Orchestra Hall. 8 p.m., Power Center. Free. 764-0594.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Sissi" (Ernst Marischka, 1955). See 10 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA. "The Last Kiss" (Gabriele Muccino, 2002). See 4 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "Naqoyqatsi (War as a Way of Life)" (Godfrey Reggio, 2002). See 6 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

12 THURSDAY

"NetWorks": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce. A popular monthly program that provides local businesspeople a chance to meet and learn about one another's businesses. This month's program: BNI director Cedric McSweeney discusses "How to Develop Your 30-Second Elevator Pitch." Bring

your business cards. 7:45-9:15 a.m., Detroit Edison Community Room, 425 S. Main. \$7 (\$5 with nonperishable food donation) includes light refreshments. 214-0108.

Bake Sale: Northeast Senior Center. Sale of home-baked holiday goods made and sold by local seniors. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Domino's Farms, lower level of Lobby G, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free admission. 276-5896.

"Intervals and Meaning": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild. Talk by U-M music lecturer Marianne Ploger. 10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 647-4301.

***Flo Oy Wong: U-M School of Art & Design.** Talk by this California mixed-media artist whose collages of rice sacks, suitcases, screen prints, and photographs address her family and the Chinese American community. 5 p.m., Art & Architecture auditorium, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 936-2082.

***"Hand-Held Computers": Ann Arbor Association for Women in Computing.** Talk by Daniel Hibbetts, founder of the Ann Arbor Palm OS Developers Group. Refreshments. 6 p.m., Dennison Bldg. 8th-floor room TBA, 501 East University. Free. 764-0936.

***"Christmas Around the World": Dixboro United Methodist Church.** Soup-supper and talks by speakers TBA. 6:30-7:30 p.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. Free. 665-8773.

"Seasonal Beers": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about 2 dozen or so different spiced beers, old ales, meads, and other holiday favorites. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. 7-9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets \$25 in advance & (if available) at the door. 213-1393.

***Annual Caroling Party and Luminaria Display: Glacier Hills Retirement Center.** Some 1,000 handmade luminarias (traditional Christmas lights) create a Christmas glow at this community carol sing-along. "Brightly decorated cookies and hot cider" will be served, notes an organizer. All welcome. 7-8 p.m., Glacier Hills, 1200 Earhart Rd. Free. 663-5202.

***Holiday Dinner: Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club.** All invited to bring a dish to share at a potluck. Participants are also asked to bring a bird-related item to be auctioned tonight. Proceeds benefit avian education and research. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 662-4582.

***Thursday Tours: U-M Museum of Art.** December 12 & 19. Docent-led tours of 2 exhibits, *The New York School* (December 12) and *Masterworks of Chinese Painting* (December 19). 7 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764-UMMA.

***"11th Annual Light a Memory": St. Joseph Mercy Hospice (formerly Hospice of Washtenaw).** All invited to remember and honor a departed loved one by joining Hospice staff to relate personal stories and listen to readings and music. Hand-held lights distributed for a group lighting. Followed by dessert reception. Proceeds benefit hospice programs. 7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Education Center auditorium, 5305 E. Huron River Dr. Optional donation. 327-3400.

***History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join a discussion of a book TBA. Refreshments. 7-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 111 E. Ann. Free. 669-0451.

"Basic Bicycle Maintenance": Two Wheel Tango. All kids invited to bring their bike to learn how to tune it up, check the chain and brakes, lubricate it, and more. 7:30 p.m., Two Wheel Tango, 323 Hoover. \$10. Preregistration required. 528-3030.

***"Annual Winter Sing": Pioneer High Schools.** Kenneth Westerman leads all 8 of the school's vocal groups in a concert that includes the traditional "Drill, Ye Tarriers" and "Hava Nagila," Allen Koepke's "Dance on My Heart," Michael Praetorius's "Psallite," and 3 works from Randall Thompson's lovely song cycle *Frostiana*, "The Pasture," "Choose Something Like a Star," and "A Girl's Garden." Accompanist is Carol Wargelin. Followed by a reception in the cafeteria. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994-2120.

"Alice in Concert": Young People's Theater. December 12-15 & 19-22. Piper LaGrelus directs local young actors ages 6-16 in Elizabeth Swados's delightful, acclaimed musical adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. Alice's wanderings bring her in turn to the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts, the Jabberwock, and other familiar characters. 7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic The-

ater, 408 W. Washington. Tickets \$10 (seniors & students, \$7) in advance & at the door. 971-7207.

"Don't Try This at Home": Clear Channel Entertainment. An evening of really stupid, gleefully tasteless stunts and pranks by Steve-O and other cast members of the MTV hit movie and TV show *Jackass*. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$25 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, & at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

"Guru Yoga": The Aro Gar of Ann Arbor. Talk by Yeshe Zertsal, an ordained *ngakpa* (Tantric practitioner) in the Aro gTer lineage of the Nyingma School of Vajrayana Buddhism. A disciple of Dzogchen masters Ngak'chang Rinpoche and Khandro Dechen, she is known for her clear understanding, powerful communicative style, and candid humor. 8 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. \$5. 426-2527.

Pub Domain and Millish: The Ark. Double bill. Pub Domain is an energetic young quintet from Bath, Michigan, that plays what it calls "Americeltic trad-rock," traditional and original Irish ballads, songs, and reels adapted to a mix of American styles from bluegrass and Cajun to jazz and funk. Millish is a local quartet that plays a brand of Irish-world-beat fusion that explores the links between traditional Irish music with roots music from Scotland and Brittany, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Spain, and America. With National Scottish champion fiddler Jeremy Kittel, All-Ireland champion uilleann piper Tyler Duncan, guitarist Jesse Mason, and percussionist Glenn Bering. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$11 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Phoenix Premieres II.Funny Stuff": Phoenix Productions. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Man of La Mancha": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Jimmy Dore: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 12-14. Local debut of this popular comic, a cable and network TV regular known for his clever, provocative, often painfully funny questioning of conventional pieties. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$7 (Thurs.) & \$9 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$10 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

FILMS

MTF. "Naqoyqatsi (War as a Way of Life)" (Godfrey Reggio, 2002). See 6 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Satin Rouge"** (Raja Amari, 2002). See 8 Sunday. Mich., times TBA.

13 FRIDAY

"Tiny Tots Time": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). Hands-on science activities and free play for kids ages 1-3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$5 per child. 997-1553.

***"Tot Shabbat": Jewish Community Center.** All young kids, from newborns through preschoolers, invited for a program of singing, dancing, and other activities led by Adam Kander. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

***FreeAgent Ann Arbor.** Freelancers of all sorts, including consultants, contractors, and independent professionals, invited to chat about freelancing strategies over lunch. Noon, location TBA. Free (pay for your own lunch). 930-6564.

***The Yiddish Group: Jewish Community Center.** All invited for readings and discussion of Yiddish literature selections TBA. Also, singing of Yiddish songs. 1:30-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

"Mummy's the Word": Vitosha Guest Haus. Members of the Ohio improv theater troupe Random Acts present their interactive mystery drama, centered on a missing mummy, whose 3 acts are spread over the course of 2 days. The first act begins at 3 p.m. over afternoon tea, where participants mingle and chat with a pith-helmeted explorer, a svelte Cleopatra, a lady in a toxic-green wig flashing a big wad of cash, and other characters. Everyone sings along to original songs sprinkled throughout the production. At 8 p.m., the audience returns for wine and cheese and to gather clues from a crime scene. Over breakfast at 8 a.m. on Saturday, the veil of mystery finally parts to reveal the guilty suspect. 3 p.m., Vi-

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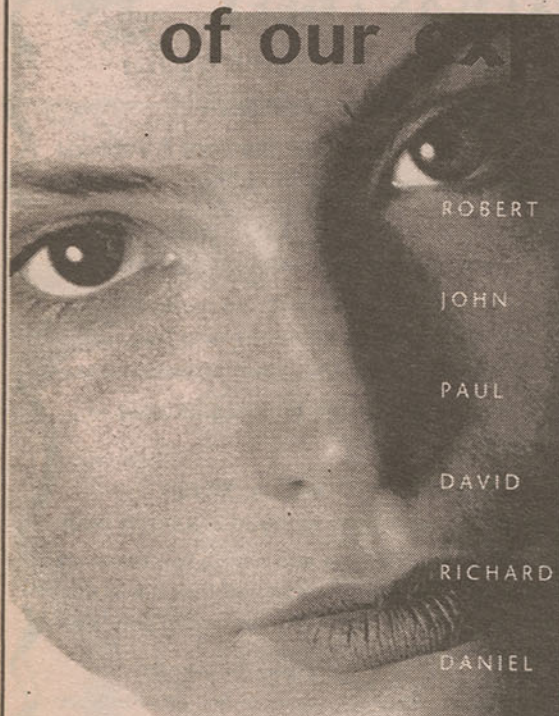
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13 FRIDAY EVENTS continued

tosha Guest Haus, 1917 Washtenaw. Tickets \$50 in advance only. 741-4969.

★"24-Hour World-Healing Peace Circle." All invited to stop by for 30 minutes or more for silent meditation on world peace, forgiveness, cooperation, and joy. Light refreshments. 6 p.m. on Dec. 13 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 14, Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free. 971-8576.

Holiday Gift Sale: Yourist Pottery. December 13 & 14. Show and sale of a variety of one-of-a-kind handmade ceramic gifts, including Christmas ornaments, jewelry, plates, vases, teapots, mugs, fish, and more. 6-9 p.m. (Dec. 13), 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Dec. 14). Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1160 Broadway. Free admission. 662-4914.

★"Friday Night Live": Ann Arbor Parks Department Youth Outreach Program. Supervised dance party for middle (7-10 p.m.) and high school (10 p.m.-1 a.m.) students. DJs play a variety of current R&B, rock, rap, and pop. 7 p.m.-1 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$5. 997-1615.

★Billy Dee Williams and Elizabeth Bowman: Ann Arbor District Library. Award-winning actor Williams, also a best-selling novelist and an award-winning portrait painter, and best-selling novelist (and U-M grad) Bowman discuss their careers and their collaboration on *Twilight*, a romantic thriller that is soon to be released as a movie. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★Father Daniel Homan and Lonni Collins Pratt: Liberty Borders. Michigan Benedictine monk Homan and writer Pratt read excerpts from *Radical Hospitality: Benedict's Way of Love*, their acclaimed guide to fully welcoming others into one's life. Also, signing. 7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

★Winter Concerts: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. December 13-15 (different programs and locations). This local performing-arts organization for children and adults presents concerts of holiday and classical music showcasing the school's ensembles. Tonight: Abby Alwin, Judith Thompson-Barthwell, and Melinda Heathcock lead the Michigan Children of SCORE (String, Choral, Orff, and Recorder Ensemble) in a wide range of holiday music from around the world. 7-8:30 p.m., Greenhills School, 850 Greenhills. Free. Donations accepted. 995-4625.

★Older Lesbians Organizing. All lesbians invited to discuss ideas for next year's club programs. Also, a caroling and latke-making party (call 482-2996). 7:30 p.m., Common Language Bookstore, 215 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 482-2996.

★Professional Volunteer Corps. All singles 25 & older invited to help plan social outings and determine which local service projects to support with volunteer work. Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing and newcomer orientation. 7:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 747-6801.

★"Barleywine & Old Ales": Ann Arbor Brewers' Guild. All invited to join an informal tasting and discuss home-brewing techniques. Bring 1-2 bottles per batch of your own, or of an interesting commercial version. 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free to first-timers (\$15 annual dues). 665-5805.

★"The Christmas Story": Evangel Temple Assembly of God. December 13 & 15. All invited to see a traditional Nativity play put on by Evangel Temple kids 5-12 years old. 7:30 p.m., Evangel Temple Assembly of God, 2455 Washtenaw. Free, but donations accepted. 769-4157.

★"Great Expectations": Ann Arbor Young Actors Guild. December 13-15. Sue Roe directs local young actors in Robert Johanson's adaptation of Dickens's classic tale about the lad Pip, whose humble rural beginnings in a blacksmith's home lead to a glittering urban life, until a revelation about Pip's anonymous benefactor brings the young man back to earth. 7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, 911 North University. Tickets \$9 (kids 11 and younger, \$7) in advance or at the door. 913-9800.

★"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. December 13-15. Wendy DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers in a production of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet, based on an E. T. A. Hoffmann story, about a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas eve. 7:30 p.m., Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. Tickets \$15 (\$8, seniors, students, & children; \$5 groups of 10 or more for Saturday matinee only) available in advance at the Glass Slipper, Dancer's Boutique, and Chelsea Pharmacy or at the door. 475-3070.

★"The Wizard of Oz": Wild Swan Theater. December 13-15. This award-winning local children's the-

ater presents local playwright Jeff Duncan's non-musical adaptation of Frank Baum's classic tale of Dorothy's journey to the Emerald City. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available by pre-arrangement (995-0530) for blind audience members. Cast: Delaine Andrzejewski, Steve Petersen, Chris Korte, Sandy Ryder, Tiffany Jones, Michelle Lanzi, Desmond Ryan, and Ramona Brand. 7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets \$8 (children, \$6) available in advance & at the door. 424-9591.

★"Alice in Concert": Young People's Theater. See 12 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's *Theosophy of the Rosicrucian*. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. 8-9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway (1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes). Free. 662-6398.

Don Conoscenti: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Colorado singer-songwriter known for his soulful vocals and artful lyrics. His songs blend elements of blues, rock, soul, and trance music; he is also a virtuosic fingerpicking guitarist. He recently released his 7th CD, *Paradox of Grace*. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$10 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance & at the door. 662-4536, 665-8558.

Emerson String Quartet: University Musical Society. Named after poet and essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson, this multi-Grammy-winning quartet has gained worldwide acclaim for its mastery of 20th-century classical music and for a distinctively muscular sound that's both gritty and lyrical. Tonight's program of string quartets includes Smetana's autobiographical *From My Life*, which musically addresses his passions, ambitions, and—with a piercing violin shriek in the final movement that mimics his tinnitus—even his deafness. Also, Shostakovich's bitter Quartet no. 8, op. 110, written when he was on the brink of suicide after having been forced to join the Communist Party, and Schubert's bleak, relentless quartet *Death and the Maiden*. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets \$20-\$40 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

Empatheater. Artistic director Sara Schreiber leads this local improv theater group in its 9th season. Empatheater invites audience members to anonymously write down their concerns and life situations, which become a springboard for the actors' improvisations. Theatergoers watch their stories come alive. This month's topic: "What's in It for Me?" 8 p.m., Ker-rytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$12 & \$15 (students & seniors, \$10) in advance or at the door. 913-9733.

★"Phoenix Premieres II.Funny Stuff": Phoenix Productions. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★"Man of La Mancha": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

★"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Jimmy Dore: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 12 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Eliane Elias: Bird of Paradise. December 13 & 14. Classically trained Brazilian-born, New York-based jazz guitarist known for her virtuosic speed and agility and superb harmonic sense. Her latest CD, *Kissed by Nature*, is a collection of original compositions in a Brazilian pop-jazz style. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m., Bird of Paradise, 306 S. Main. Tickets \$20 (students with ID, \$10) in advance & at the door. 971-8300 (days), 662-8310 (after 7 p.m.).

Debbie Davies Group: The Firefly Club. Davies, a former member of Albert Collins's Icebreakers, is a veteran L.A.-based blues singer-guitarist whose guitar work is known for its authoritative tone and controlled power. She's also a commanding vocalist whose singing easily slides back and forth between sass, soulfulness, sadness, and sugar. Her CD *Tales from an Austin Motel*, recorded with the rhythm section of Stevie Ray Vaughan's old band Double Trouble, was nominated for a 2000 W. C. Handy Award, and her new CD, *Love the Game*, recorded with her own band and produced by Duke Robillard, is a collection of wry, insightful slice-of-life observations about life, love, and the blues. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$12 at the door only. 665-9090.

★Tango: The Latin and Argentine Tango Club of Detroit. December 13 & 21. Tango dancing to recorded music. Preceded by lessons (8 p.m.). Note: People not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Union after 9 p.m., but if you arrive before 9 p.m., you may remain through the end of the evening. 9:30

exhibit openings

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library. Photographs by Dale Fischer; Works from Chelsea's Center Gallery; STARTwork 2002; Bells, Bells, Bells (December 2-28). 327-4510.

Dave's Photo Emporium. Photographs by Howard Bond (December 1-31). 827-0080.

Dreamland Theater. Red Lacquer (December 7-January 1). Reception December 14, 8 p.m. 485-3454.

EMU Ford Gallery. Eastern Silversmiths Guild Sale (December 5 & 6). See 5 Thursday. Megan Olsen: Prints and Drawings (December 9-13). Reception December 13, 5-7 p.m. 487-1268.

Gallery 212. Harvest Time: Renata Palubinskas (through December 15). 665-8224.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals). Snowflake Paper Cuttings; Ceramics by May Oppenheim; Photography by Donna Cybrok; Dale Fisher Murals; Children's Book Illustrations by Michael Glenn Monroe (December 16-February 13). 936-ARTS.

Intermedia Gallery. Curious Evidence (December 2-7). 528-3933.

Michigan Guild. Multimedia Views (December 11-January 30). Reception December 13, 7-9 p.m. 662-3382.

Sobran Gallery. Here and There (December 7-22). 996-0406.

U-M Institute for the Humanities. Mignonette Yin Cheng: Watercolors of Italy (December 1-January 31, 2003). 936-3518.

U-M Media Union. Things Matter (December 6-19). Reception December 6, 6-8 p.m. 647-5275.

U-M Museum of Art. Day Without Art (December 1 & 2). See 1 Sunday. 764-UMMA.

U-M Pierpont Commons. Fifty-Year Farmers of Southern Michigan (December 1-20). 764-7544.

Underground Gallery (at Wasabi Sushi Plus). New Paintings by Simone DeSousa (December 5-January 31). Reception December 5, 8-10 p.m. 913-9695.

Washington Street Gallery. Handblown Glass Paperweights (through December 31). 761-2287.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2002-2003 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or www.arborweb.com.

"there's always plenty of stuff if you don't," says an organizer. Proceeds benefit this non-profit club. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Ann Arbor Open School at Mack. Free. 971-6975.

Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. December 14 & 15. A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. 9 a.m.-noon (Dec. 14) & 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Dec. 15), Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 663-0362.

"Cookie Walk IX": First United Methodist Church. Amble through a bazaar of hundreds of toothsome homemade cookies, and select your own or prepackaged assortments. Proceeds benefit mission work. 9 a.m.-noon, First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State at Huron. Free admission. 668-6829.

***"Make and Take Craft": The Scrap Box.** All invited to drop in and embellish a gift bag or make wrapping paper with rubber-stamped designs, to take home. 10 a.m.-noon, The Scrap Box, 581 State Circle. Free. 994-4420.

***Children's Safety Class: Keith Hafner's Karate.** A 30-minute session for kids ages 4-10. Topics include basic self-defense techniques, handling negative peer pressure, dealing with bullies, and what to do if you're lost. Also, at noon, a 30-minute women's self-defense class for women and girls ages 7 and up that focuses on assault prevention and self-defense techniques. 11 a.m., Keith Hafner's Karate, 214 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994-0333.

***Dexter's Victorian Christmas: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 7 Saturday. Followed today at 5:30 p.m. by a holiday light parade, a downtown parade in which all floats are decked out in lights. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

"Stars of Winter"/"Season of Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Every Saturday and Sunday beginning December 14. Stars of the Harvest (11:30 a.m. Saturdays only and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the stars visible in the winter sky and their associated mythology. Seasons of Light (12:30 p.m. Saturdays only and 2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about various ancient and modern solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah. Note: Seasons of Light is also shown at 2:30 p.m., December 27-30. 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes. \$3. 764-0478.

***"Time to Shop Without the Kids": American Red Cross.** Parents can drop off kids K-6 for games and educational activities, supervised by trained volunteer baby-sitters. Bring a snack for your child. Noon-5 p.m., Red Cross, 2729 Packard. Free. Preregistration required. 971-5300.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Charleston Southern. 12:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$21. 764-0247.

***"Who Lives Here? A Winter Hike for Children": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike through a scenic miniwilderness to check for the tracks, burrows, and food plants of the park's animals. Hot drinks served afterwards. 1 p.m., County Farm Park (park in Platt Rd. lot), Washtenaw at Platt. Free. 971-6337.

***Winter Concerts: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** See 13 Friday. Today: Solo and ensemble performances by instrumental and voice students and chamber ensembles. 1, 2, 3, & 4 p.m., Greenhills School, 850 Greenhills. Free. Donations accepted. 995-4625.

***Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to celebrate the rebirth of 2 ancient parents of the cosmos, primal mother Danu and sun god Bel. The ritual includes singing, making an offering, and honoring ancestors and nature spirits. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass), raffle, and child care. Preceded by a fire watch beginning Friday (call for time). 2-5 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free. 697-2514.

***"Swamp Thing": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a family hike to explore the park's rarely visited tamarack swamp and look for deer, foxes, and other elusive animals that visit it daily. 2 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: \$3 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426-8211.

***"Arthur": Barnes & Noble.** Marc Brown's lovable aardvark is on hand to tell some of his favorite adventures. Parents welcome to bring their cameras.

2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-0846.

"The Wizard of Oz": Wild Swan Theater. See 13 Friday. 2 p.m.

***Paul VornHagen Duo: King's Keyboard House.** Jazz arrangements of Christmas carols and Christmas pop by a local duo of singer-saxophonist VornHagen and a pianist TBA. 2:30-3:30 p.m., King's, 2333 E. Stadium (just west of Washtenaw). Free. 663-3381.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Seton Hall. 3 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

***"Into the Circle: An Introduction to Native American Powwows": U-M Exhibit Museum.** Video showing. In conjunction with the current museum exhibit *Jiingtamok: Exploring the Powwow Highway*. 3-4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes. Free. 764-0478, 763-6085.

"Sing Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing led by local singer-actor Larry Henkel as Santa, with piano accompanist Lori Zupan. Also, holiday tunes by award-winning violinist Bella Hristova and AASO harpist Amy Ley. Refreshments follow the concert. 4-5 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10 (children 12 and under, \$5; families, \$25; patrons, \$50) in advance at the AASO office, 527 E. Liberty, & at the door. 994-4801.

***"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society.** Monthly anime-a-thon of feature films and episodes from TV series. This month's choices include more episodes from *Pita Ten*, the sugary comedy series featuring cutesy-wootie elementary students, and from *RahXephon*, the futuristic drama about a space invader who prompts Tokyo to seal itself under a big dome. Other titles TBA. Raffle (bring an item of canned food, to benefit Food Gatherers, to get a ticket). U-M campus admission policy: No one under 18 admitted without an adult. 5 p.m.-midnight, MLB, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free. www.umich.edu/~animania.

***Cultural Show: Children's Russian Club.** Local Russian children present the club's adaptation of Gogol's *The Inspector General* and its staged version of A. A. Milne's children's book *Winnie-the-Pooh*. The plays are performed in Russian, with English-language synopses provided. Also, performances of 2 traditional Russian dances, the "Sailor's Dance" and a waltz. 5 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts and Sciences Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 741-1953.

Annual Benefit Auction: Zen Buddhist Temple of Ann Arbor. Auction of a wide array of donated goods and services, from paintings and fine vases to gardening and housekeeping help and kayaking lessons. Proceeds go to Alternatives for Girls in Detroit and the Parbatya Bouddha Mission, an orphanage in Bangladesh. 6 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free admission. 761-6520.

***"Jazz Holiday Showcase": Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** See 13 Friday. Today: Jack Wagner leads jazz ensembles from the school's Jazz Studies program. 6 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Free. Donations accepted. 995-4625.

***Family Holiday Sing: Dexter Historical Society.** All invited to join a family sing-along. Also, a visit from Santa. Seasonal refreshments. 7 p.m., Dexter Museum, 3443 Inverness at Fourth, Dexter. Free admission. 426-2519.

***U-M Wrestling vs. Cleveland State.** 7:30 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, Hoover at S. State. Free. 764-0247.

"Great Expectations": Ann Arbor Young Actors Guild. See 13 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"16th Annual Winter Concert": Ann Arbor Youth Chorus. Ruth Datz, Richard Ingram, and Shayla Powell conduct 3 ensembles of talented local youth singers ages 9-16 in a program of holiday favorites. 7:30 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity. Tickets \$7 (students, seniors, and kids, \$4) in advance & at the door. 996-4404.

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. December 14 & 15 (different locations). Boychoir founder Tom Storde directs this local ensemble of 45 boys in its 16th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city," concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day," and includes traditional carols, Andrew Carter's arrangement of the medieval carol "Angelus ad virginem," and 2 Christmas anthems, Allan Bullard's *Angel Alleluia* and Kenneth Leighton's *The Coventry Carol*. Some of these performances are accompanied by audience sing-alongs. The featured piece, Kirke Mechem's *Seven Joys of Christmas*, is accompanied by 17-year-old harp virtuoso Allegra Lilly. The boy singers are supplemented by several professional men



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p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free to first-timers. (313) 561-3236.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Heaven" (Tom Tykwer, 2002). December 13-19. A female terrorist vigilante's bomb intended for a drug pusher kills innocent people instead, and one of the corrupt cops who interrogate her thinks about helping her to escape. Cate Blanchett, Giovanni Ribisi. Italian and English subtitles. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

14 SATURDAY

***Restoration Work Day: U-M Nichols Arboretum.** All invited to join Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members for the removal of invasive plants and the preparation of new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. 9 a.m.-noon, meeting location TBA. Free. 998-9540.

***2nd Saturday Bird Walk: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike through a quiet urban oasis to scout for cardinals, goldfinches, and other winter birds. "It's a good park for woodpeckers," notes Stoner. Beginning birders welcome. Hot drinks served afterwards. Bring binoculars and bird book. 9 a.m., County Farm Park (park in Platt Rd. lot), Washtenaw at Platt. Free. 971-6337.

***Christmas Party: MacTechnics.** All invited to chat with members of the graphical user interface MacTechnics. Live auction of computer stuff (bring an item to donate if you like). Raffle. Refreshments—you can bring a snack to contribute, but



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14 SATURDAY EVENTS continued

singers, who provide the lower choral parts, and the choir is accompanied on St. Andrew's 33-rank Reuter organ by National Shrine of the Little Flower (Royal Oak) organist and choirmaster Charles Kennedy. The Boychoir's Preparatory Choir performs John Rutter's "Star Carol" and John Barnard's "Traveler's Tales." Also, sale of the Boychoir Christmas CD. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so get your tickets in advance. 3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$10; youths 17 & under, \$5; families, \$40) in advance & at the door. 663-5377.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 13 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"Alice in Concert": Young People's Theater. See 12 Thursday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"Northern Lights Victorian Ball": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Victorian-era Scandinavia is this year's theme for this elegant evening of vintage ballroom and traditional dancing to live music by the Grand Traditions Ensemble. Singles and couples of all abilities invited to don period dress (see vintagedance.com/wear.htm). Also, pre-ball workshops on set dances and etiquette (1-2:30 p.m.) and Scandinavian dances (2:30-4 p.m.). Refreshments. 7:45-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94), Saline. \$25 includes workshops. Workshops only: \$5 each. Preregistration required. 429-0014.

"Women Hanging Out (WHO)": Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project. All lesbians and friends invited for a potluck (bring a dish to pass), games, recorded music, and socializing. 8-11 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 994-9867.

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Beginners welcome. 8-11 p.m., Webster Community Hall, across from Webster Church on Webster Church Rd. (1 mile south of North Territorial), Dexter. \$7. 996-8359.

"Neologisms V: Childhood Memory": Dreamland Theater. An interactive cabaret-style variety show with music, puppetry, spoken word, and more, by performers TBA. Audience members encouraged to bring something from their childhood. 8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti. \$5. 485-3454.

Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. Thomas Hilbish leads this accomplished local ensemble of 40-odd professional and amateur singers in a varied program that features Stravinsky's richly colored *Symphony of Psalms* and Charles Ives's *Psalms* 90, a work combining classical elements with modern polytonalities and unusual rhythmic permutations. Also, Brahms's understated and elegiac *Naenie*, and Baroque composer Dietrich Buxtehude's *Das neugeborne Kindelein* (The Newborn Babe), a catchy, melodic cantata tinged with French influences. The singers are accompanied by an ad hoc ensemble of U-M music students and local musicians. 8 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 Liberty. Tickets \$12 (students and seniors, \$10; kids 12 and under, free). 665-6444.

Tim Monger and Fred Thomas: Canterbury House. Songs and stories from this ad hoc duo. Monger's a singer-songwriter-guitarist from the local folk-rock sextet the Original Brothers and Sisters of Love, and Thomas leads the Ypsilanti experimental jazz-classical improvisational quartet Flashpapr. 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$5 donation (students, \$3). 665-0606.

"6th Annual Evening of Sacred Song": Sacred Song. Rhonda Bantimbe leads this 15-member local vocal ensemble in an evening of songs from numerous spiritual traditions worldwide. A return from a 2-year hiatus, the concert features works performed a cappella and with accompaniment of flute, guitar, bass, keyboard, accordion, and percussion. Highlights: master Congolese drummer and dancer Tati-tos Sompia leads the group in his song "Dance in Fire," and Sacred Song performs Cindy Mangsen's "Solstice Round." Followed by a lively percussion jam and a reception with hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Guest performers include local storyteller LaRon Williams and local bassist Rob Crozier. Proceeds benefit the Ann Arbor Committee for Peace and the Saline organization Migrant Health Promotion. 8 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. \$5-\$20 sliding scale at the door only. 975-8791.

Livingston Taylor: The Ark. Like his more famous brother James, Livingston Taylor first emerged as part of the singer-songwriter boom of the late 60s and early 70s. From his first hits ("Carolina Day" and "In My Reply"), his music has remained consistently sweet-tempered, emotionally direct and buoyant, occasionally very humorous, and laid back in a



Honored as Funniest Female Comic at the Canadian Comedy Awards, Elvira Kurt performs at the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase Dec. 19.

way that evokes a thoughtful country squire. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$17.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Altan: University Musical Society. This quintet from county Donegal in northwestern Ireland presents "A Traditional Gaelic Seasonal Celebration," with Irish music performed in a style that blends the melodic sweetness of Irish tunes with the power and drive of Scottish music. Led by fiddler and vocalist Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh, who sings in Gaelic and English, the group includes bouzouki player Ciaran Curran, guitarist Daithi Sproule, fiddler Ciaran Tourish, and accordionist Dermot Byrne. Also, a step dance performance by a troupe from Kerry, in southwestern Ireland. Guest musicians include harpist Laoise Kelly, accordionist Seamus Begley, harpist Ann Heymann, and guitarist Jim Murray. The *Chicago Tribune* calls Altan "the most influential traditional group to emerge from Ireland since the seminal Bothy Band." 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$16-\$34 in advance at the Michigan League & (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

"Rafferty's Mill": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. December 14 & 15. RC drama professor Martin Walsh directs RC students in the prominent young Irish playwright Marina Carr's recent work, a powerful drama, set in contemporary rural Ireland, about a grimly ironic patriarch, his romantically addled mother, 2 abused daughters, and a son who lives in the cowshed. 8 p.m., RC Auditorium, 701 East University, East Quad. Free. 647-4353.

"Phoenix Premieres II.Funny Stuff": Phoenix Productions. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Man of La Mancha": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Jimmy Dore: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 12 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Eliane Elias: Bird of Paradise. See 13 Friday. 9 & 11 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Satin Rouge" (Raja Amari, 2002). See 8 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. "Heaven" (Tom Tykwer, 2002). See 13 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

15 SUNDAY

"Cookie Walk": Dixboro United Methodist Church. Choose fresh-baked cookies to make your own assortment or buy prepackaged sets. 9:45 a.m.-noon, Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. Free. 665-8773.

Sunday Schmooze: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. All invited for socializing and discussion. Topic TBA. Coffee, snack. 10 a.m.-noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off

Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975-9872.

"The Christmas Story": Evangel Temple Assembly of God. See 13 Friday. 11 a.m.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Colorado State. 11:30 a.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics. The U-M men's gymnastics team, which finished 4th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2002-2003 season with an intrasquad meet. 1 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

"Frosty on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Frosty the Snowman in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. Free candy canes. 1-3 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$4.25 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$3.50). Skate rentals available (\$2). 761-7240.

"Kids Create!": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Kids invited to use beautiful natural objects to make take-home crafts from 4 of 5 choices. "Greens and Beans in a Jar," "Forced Flowers for Fun," "Triangle Trees or Swinging Stars," "Seed and Feed for Birdbrains," and "Tiny Twigs and Great Greens." 1-3 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. \$10. Pre-registration required by Dec. 6. 998-7061.

Shirley Perich: Georgetown Gifts. This local business manager for the ad agency Perich and Partners reads from *Pearls of Wisdom*, her new collection of 4 "Chicken Soup"-style inspirational books. Each "pearl" offers insights and advice for people facing big challenges, including families expecting their first child, singles about to tie the knot, high school grads about to leave home, and those facing their own or a loved one's death. Refreshments. 1-3 p.m., 2510 Packard in Georgetown Mall. Free. 971-1068.

"Holiday Skate Show": Ann Arbor Skating Club. All invited to watch young and adult members of this award-winning club perform solo, duet, and group ice skating routines to a variety of holiday songs. Also, the club's synchronized skating team wows onlookers with its snazzy competitive routine. 1:15-3:15 p.m., Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. Donation of nonperishable food for a local food pantry. 213-6768.

38th Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by First Methodist Church chancel choir director Bob Pratt, who was for many years the choral director at Pioneer High. Scores are provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. 1:15 p.m. (orchestra warm-up), 1:30 p.m. (performance), St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Mary Steffek Blaske at 665-5964.

"Feed the Poets": Del Rio. Open mike poetry readings interspersed with informal readings by poets TBA. 1:30-4:30 p.m., Del Rio, 122 W. Washington. Free. 761-2530.

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. All invited for socializing and small-group discussions. 2-5 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division at Catherine. Free. 741-0659.

Advanced English Frolic and Tea: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. English country dancing for experienced dancers. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. Eric Arnold leads to music by A Perfect Match. Followed by "a light but sumptuous repast" (5 p.m.). 2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$15. (313) 937-1552.

Winter Concerts: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. See 13 Friday. Today at 2 p.m.: Tami Lee leads the *Debut String Orchestra*, an ensemble of musicians ages 6-10, and Abby Alwin leads the *Junior String Orchestra*, an ensemble of musicians ages 8-13. At 3 p.m.: Leslie Capozzoli leads the *Sterling String Orchestra*, an ensemble of young musicians ages 9-12, and Kevin Miller leads the *Youth Symphony Orchestra*, an ensemble of musicians ages 13-18. 2 & 3 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 995-4625.

"Alice in Concert": Young People's Theater. See 12 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 13 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Great Expectations": Ann Arbor Young Actors Guild. See 13 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Wizard of Oz": Wild Swan Theater. See 13 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Phoenix Premieres II.Funny Stuff": Phoenix Productions. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Man of La Mancha": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★"Show and Tell Astrology": Astrology Study Group of Washtenaw County. Local astrologers Bon Rose Fine and Richard Smoot give an entertaining, informative introduction to astrology. The talk is aimed at newcomers, but veteran astrologers can pick up some useful information, too. Followed by an open house and holiday party. 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Free. 434-4555.

★Christmas Concert: Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this volunteer ensemble in a program of seasonal music. Also, a guest performance by the Ann Arbor Concert Band and a sing-along of Christmas carols. 3 p.m., Dexter High School, Parker St. at Shield St., Dexter. Free. 429-5301.

★Holiday Concert: Our Own Thing Chorus. See 10 Tuesday. 6 p.m., Ann Arbor Community and Family Worship Center (housed in Cavalry United Methodist Church), 1415 Miller. Free. 487-0372.

Holiday Concert: Measure for Measure. Leonard Riccinto directs this noted local 80-member men's chorus in a concert of Christmas favorites and sacred and secular songs from the group's traditional "glee club" repertoire. Proceeds benefit Dawn Farm. 7:30 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 517 Elizabeth. Tickets \$12 (students and seniors, \$10) in advance or at the door. 485-8725, 769-7360.

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 14 Saturday. 7:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 128 Park St., Chelsea.

Steppin' in It: The Ark. Lansing string quartet that plays everything from bluegrass, country-folk, and country blues to Cajun, western swing, and calypso. The band has a new CD, *Last Winter in the Copper Country*. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Nicholas Delbanco: Beth Israel Congregation "Perspectives on Jewish Arts." This U-M English professor, a nationally acclaimed novelist known for his richly textured prose and brooding narrative voice, reads from *What Remains*, his meditation, arising from the story of a Jewish family forced to leave Germany when Hitler comes to power, on the themes of fate, memory, exile, change, aging, and the nature of what sustains and fulfills a human life. 7:45-9:15 p.m., Beth Israel, 2000 Washtenaw. Free. 665-9897.

★"Rafferty's Mill": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. See 14 Saturday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "It's a Wonderful Life" (Frank Capra, 1946). December 15 & 17. Sentimental classic about a man who gets a second chance at life on Christmas Eve. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. \$5. 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "In July" (Fatih Akin, 2000). December 15, 16, 18, & 19. Silly, charming romantic comedy about the international mishaps of a starry-eyed student teacher who pursues his sweetie from Hamburg to Istanbul. German, subtitles. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "Heaven" (Tom Tykwer, 2002). See 13 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

16 MONDAY

★Embroiderers' Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. 6:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues). 426-3903.

★"The Art of Spiritual Dreaming": Eckankar of Ann Arbor. Talk by a local Eckankar representative based on Harold Klemp's book. 7:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 994-0766.

★John Smolens: Shaman Drum Bookshop. This acclaimed novelist and short story writer, the director of the NMU creative writing program, reads from *The Invisible World*, his adeptly plotted new novel of political intrigue about a middle-aged, down-on-his-luck Boston journalist trying to find out just what kind of work his now aged father did for the government in the 60s that caused him to keep dis-



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16 MONDAY EVENTS continued

appearing from his family. Signing, refreshments. 8 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

FILMS

MTF. "Heaven" (Tom Tykwer, 2002). See 13 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "In July" (Fatih Akin, 2000). See 15 Sunday. Mich., times TBA.

17 TUESDAY

American Business Women's Association MAIA Chapter. Networking (5:30 p.m.) and dinner (6 p.m.), followed by reports from members who recently attended the national ABWA convention in Nashville (7:30 p.m.). Also, raffle. 5:30 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. \$13.75. Preregistration required. 429-8585.

"Holiday Fete": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. A holiday fun-a-thon that starts with a light potluck supper (6:45 p.m., bring a dish), followed by English country dancing (7:15 p.m.) led by Alisa Dodson with music by pianist David West and fiddler Donna Baird. A break for live entertainment TBA and refreshments (8:30 p.m.) is followed by more dancing (9 p.m.) and entertainment (10 p.m.). Partners or previous experience not necessary. Comfortable nonslip walking shoes recommended. 6:45 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. \$6. 422-1170.

Women's Circle: Essence Point. All women invited to discuss spirituality, relationships, empowerment, metaphysics, and healing. Short meditation session. Also, bring divination tools, if you like. 7 p.m., Genesis Foundation (Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church), 2309 Packard. \$2. 741-0478.

"Once (Revisited)." An evening of music and readings by local and U-M musicians and writers. Small ad hoc ensembles of musicians perform works by Liszt and other classical composers and contemporary classical pieces by U-M student and alumni composers. The music alternates with readings by poets and fiction writers. A highlight is an appearance by the Pothead Chorus, who recite an excerpt from *The Life of Homer*, a poem attributed to Herodotus, while wearing big terra-cotta flowerpots on their heads. 7 p.m., Media Union video studio, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 93-MEDIA.

"Great Nature Trips of 2002": Sierra Club Annual Newcomers' Meeting. All invited to bring around 15 slides of memorable nature trips and give a brief talk on them. Preceded by a potluck (6:30 p.m.). 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 480-7751.

Band Concert: Huron High School. Stephen Roberts leads the group in EMU marching band director Scott Boerma's *Cauldron*, Saint-Saens's *March militaire francais*, and other works. 7:30 p.m., Huron High School Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. Free. 994-2040.

"The Dog Slam": Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. This midmonth affair for those for whom the long-standing 1st Tuesday (see 3 Tuesday listing) is not enough features open mike sessions and a variety of gimmicky slams. "We will leave no poem unread." 8-11 p.m., Heidelberg Rathskeller, 215 N. Main. \$4. For information, call Larry Francis at 426-3451.

Deborah Mantel & David Mosher: The Ark. Local singer-songwriter Mantel is joined by veteran local acoustic guitarist Mosher to perform songs from her recently released debut CD, a collection of original Christian songs and familiar favorites. Opening acts are Cornerstone and John and Mark Miklosovic. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 (students with ID, \$10) in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 3 Tuesday. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.

FILMS

MTF. "It's a Wonderful Life" (Frank Capra, 1946). See 15 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. "Heaven" (Tom Tykwer, 2002). See 13 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "The Underworld." "Anime Night." See 3 Tuesday. The Underworld, 9-11 p.m.

18 WEDNESDAY

"Holiday Potluck": Northeast Senior Center. All seniors invited to enjoy a sing-along with the center's band and choir, followed by a potluck (bring a dish). 11:30-2 p.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro



Rare artifacts on display at Special Collections in the Graduate Library through Jan. 11 include (clockwise from left) one leaf of the Gutenberg Bible, a 1611 King James Bible, the earliest known copy—on papyrus—of one of the epistles of Paul, and a mid-15th-century book of hours.

Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Free (\$5 if you don't bring a dish). 502-4760.

"Lunch with Bach": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Matthew's and St. Joseph's Episcopal Church (Detroit) music director Tim Huth performs J. S. Bach organ music. Bring a bag lunch. Noon, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

Wine Tasting: Paesano's Restaurant. Every Wednesday. A chance to sample 6 different Italian wines each week, in an informal and friendly setting, with a selection of hot antipasti. 6-7 p.m., Paesano's, 3411 Washtenaw. Space limited; reservations recommended. \$15. 971-0484.

"Weird Wednesday": Dreamland Theater. Open stage for all musicians, performance and multimedia artists, and more. 7 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Free. Preregistration required for performers. 485-3454.

"Cultural Show": American Friends Service Committee. A variety show aimed at the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans community featuring performances by local poets, spoken word artists, and musicians. Also, a potluck (bring an ethnic dish to share). 7 p.m., location TBA. \$5-\$15 sliding scale. 761-8283.

Poetry Group: Barnes & Noble. All poets invited to bring samples of their work for the group to critique. Hosted by local poet Lawrence Thomas. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-0846.

Volume: Liberty Borders. Members of this national award winning local youth poetry club allied with the Neutral Zone teen center read their poems. 8 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Kidstock": Leopold Bros. Brewery. Performances by several local and area musicians to raise money for the Easter Children's Fund, which was established for 3 children whose father was shot and killed last August. The lineup includes folk-style singer-songwriters Greg Stovetop, Adam Labeaux, Kyle Norris, and Matt Jones, along with acoustic rock by the Real Live Players and rootsy folk-rock by Back Forty. 10 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), Leopold Bros., 523 S. Main. \$5 at the door only. 747-9806.

FILMS

MTF. "Heaven" (Tom Tykwer, 2002). See 13 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "In July" (Fatih Akin, 2000). See 15 Sunday. Mich., times TBA.

19 THURSDAY

"Celebration at Year's End": International Neighbors. A chance to learn about year-end celebrations of various cultures, including food, music, and gift-giving and other traditions. Also, sale of works by Third World artisans. All area women invited. International Neighbors is a 44-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. 9:30-11 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church Piper Hall, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 994-7030.

"Holiday Luncheon": American Association of University Women. A festive social hour complete

with a wassail bowl, followed by lunch and short talks by this year's club scholarships recipients. 11:30 a.m., Ann Arbor Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$16.50. 973-6287.

★Ann Arbor Society for Origami. All invited (children and adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. 7-9:30 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence (off Packard). Free. 434-5152.

★Ann Arbor Area Committee for Peace. All invited to discuss local peace activism projects with this group supporting peace and civil liberties that formed in response to the aftermath of September 11. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 662-0818.

★3rd Thursday Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to join this "fun-loving" club to discuss *Tailchaser's Song*, Tad Williams's imaginative fantasy novel about a brave tabby cat's quest through cat hell to rescue his friend. 7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

"Alice in Concert": Young People's Theater. See 12 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"Playing Burton": The Ark. New York-based actor (and U-M grad) Brian Mallon, best known for his roles as General Winfield Scott Hancock in the Civil War films *Gettysburg* and the forthcoming *Gods and Generals*, stars in his acclaimed production of Welsh playwright Mark Jenkins's powerful 1994 one-man play about the turbulent life of actor Richard Burton. After a recent run of the show in Provincetown on Cape Cod, Norman Mailer called Mallon "one of the best actors I have ever seen," and actress Lee Grant described his performance as "sexy and powerful." 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$17.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Man of La Mancha": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Elvira Kurt: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 19-21. Local debut of this monologist, named Funniest Female Comic at the Canadian Comedy Awards, who draws much of the material for her hilarious railings from her experiences growing up as the only child of Hungarian immigrants. She is also the voice of Reality Chick in the Oxygen Network's animated comedy about a pregnant superhero. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$8 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$11 (Thurs.) & \$13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

FILMS

MTF. "Heaven" (Tom Tykwer, 2002). See 13 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "In July" (Fatih Akin, 2000). See 15 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. Of Global Interest. "Altitude: The Story of the First Cancer Survivor to Climb Mount Everest" (Heather O'Neal, 2002). See 6 Friday. 120 Eighth St., 8 p.m.

20 FRIDAY

★Leather Night: Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project. All who enjoy dressing in leather outfits or costumes, (or their rubber or latex look-alikes) are invited for conversation and socializing. 7-8:30 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 995-9867.

★Nicholas Gunn: Liberty Borders. This New Age multi-instrumentalist performs selections from his CDs, including traditional holiday songs from *Christmas Classic* and nature-inspired flute music with tribal percussion from *Through the Smoky Mountains*. 7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

"Alice in Concert": Young People's Theater. See 12 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Benefit Concert: Ann Arbor Musicians For Peace. Bargain-of-the-month concert featuring an all-star lineup of local musicians, who perform originals and covers of the protest and peace songs that they recently collected on the AAMFP's stellar debut CD. *Tell It, Think It, Speak It, Breathe It*. Tonight, singer-songwriter Chris Buhalis performs his "Talkin' Sounds Just Like Joe McCarthy Blues," singer-songwriter Kevin Meisel performs his "Dear Mr. President," and country music quartet Delta 88 performs Dylan's "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall." Also, performances by the alt-country band *Cordaddy*, the eclectic-repertoire folk-rock band *FUBAR*, the blues, folk, and jazz duo *Madcat and Kane*, and singer-songwriters Jim Roll, Brian Lillie, Jo Serrapere, Whitley Setrakian Hill, Dick Siegel, Dave Boutette, and Heidi Snyder. Proceeds benefit the Ann Arbor Committee for Peace, one of whose organizers says this concert is just the ticket "to beat the postelection, prewar, preholiday blues." All proceeds

benefit the Ann Arbor Committee for Peace. 8 p.m., The Ark. Tickets \$10 (students, \$6) in advance & at the door. 213-3593.

"Man of La Mancha": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Across the Way": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Elvira Kurt: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 19 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"18th Annual 'Nutcracker' Ballet": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. December 20-22. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers from children to adults appear in the production. Principal dancers are Megan Edwards, Emily Briggs, Lee Oaklander, and Ariel Adamson. With live musical accompaniment by the Michigan Sinfonietta, conducted by Leo Najjar. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$20 (seniors & students \$17; children 12 and under, \$12) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Louisiana Dance Party. Dancing to music by Maison Blue. Bring a holiday treat to share. Preceded by free lessons (7:30 p.m.). 8:30-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$8 (teens, \$3; kids 12 & under, free). 213-5209.

"Holly Daze Dance": Parents Without Partners. All adults invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s-90s music played by a DJ from Imperial Sound. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$7 (PWP members, \$5). 973-1933.

Joey DeFrancesco: Bird of Paradise. December 20 & 21. This 32-year-old prodigy from Philadelphia, the son of the great jazz organist Papa John DeFrancesco, is widely recognized as the best of the current generation of jazz organists. By turns soulful, funky, and groove-oriented, his playing displays unbelievable chops, and he approaches all the material in his varied repertoire of standards and originals with superabundant energy. 9 & 11 p.m., Bird of Paradise, 306 S. Main. Tickets \$15 (students with ID, \$10) in advance & at the door. 971-8300 (days), 662-8310 (after 7 p.m.).

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Beauty and the Beast" (Jean Cocteau, 1946). December 20-23. Dazzling, magical fantasy masterpiece, that seethes with surreal and sexual undertones, about the brave Beauty who gives herself half-unwillingly to the ungainly Beast in order to save her father. French, subtitles. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

21 SATURDAY

55th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. (The first Washtenaw count was held in 1947.) Each count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into eight regions that must be counted in a single day. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. In addition to the daylight census of local birds, some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. For information and instruction on the Washtenaw area count, call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small (\$5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in American Bird. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at a WAS member's home this evening, 6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Mike Kielb at 995-4357 or Nancy French at 994-8418. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeister at 663-9746 or 665-7427.

*"Birthday of the King": AGLOW International. All invited to join this group of Christian women for a program on giving thanks. Also, a white elephant gift exchange (bring a tacky item in good condition to swap). Preceded at 9:15 a.m. by a light breakfast. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Courthouse Square Apts., 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 971-4545.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Vanderbilt. 2:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$21. 764-0247.

"Alice in Concert": Young People's Theater. See 12 Thursday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

*Christmas Festival: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America. The pro-

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Winner: Doug Wochna
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Program: "Conversations: Ann Arbor Police Chief Dan Oates" Talk Show, Professional

Winner: Ralph Salmeron, Producer; Lani Garcia, Reporter; Tim Nagae, Camera; Mike Koski, Editor - Community Television Network
Program: "FYI: Olympic Torch" Sports Entertainment, Professional

Finalist: Ralph Salmeron, Producer; Lani Garcia, Reporter/Writer; Tim Nagae, Camera/Editor - Community Television Network
Program: "FYI: University of Michigan Planetarium" Educational, Professional

Finalist: Ralph Salmeron, Producer; Tim Nagae, Camera/Editor - Community Television Network; and Karla Henderson, Ann Arbor Senior Center
Program: "Senior Moments" Seniors 55 & Older, Professional



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21 SATURDAY EVENTS continued

gram includes (tentatively) a performance of Ann Arborite Katherine Katz's short Nativity drama *A Christmas Imagination*, lighting of and singing to the Christmas tree, and socializing. Refreshments. Children must be accompanied by an adult; not suitable for children under 6. 7:45 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 662-6398.

★**"Karaoke on Ice":** Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to show off their singing talents to the skating audience. Awards to best talent and audience favorites. 8-9:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$4.25 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$3.50). Skate rentals available (\$2). 761-7240.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to live music by the Pittsfield Open Band. All dances taught; first-timers welcome. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Also, all musicians invited to a free jam (3-6 p.m.). 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94), Saline. \$8. 426-0241 (dance), 769-4220 (jam).

Finvarra's Wren Solstice Show: The Ark. Traditional Irish, Scottish, English, and Celtic-American dances and carols by this local ensemble. Regular members Jim Perkins, Cheryl Burns, Terence McKinney, and Marty Somberg are joined by guests Alison and Asher Perkins and Siobhan McKinney, who add tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, and harp. Also, Irish step dancing. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"18th Annual 'Nutcracker' Ballet":** Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 20 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

★**"Man of La Mancha":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

★**"Across the Way":** Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Elvira Kurt: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 19 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Holiday Dance: Ann Arbor Ballroom Dance Club. All invited to join club members for ballroom dancing to recorded music. Note new location, and new name of new location. 8:30-11 p.m., Michigan Ballroom (formerly Stardust Ballroom), Country Creek Plaza, 7025 Michigan Ave., Saline. \$10. 424-3004, 665-3565.

Joey DeFrancesco: Bird of Paradise. See 20 Friday. 9 & 11 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Beauty and the Beast" (Jean Cocteau, 1946). See 20 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

22 SUNDAY

★**"Alice in Concert":** Young People's Theater. See 12 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"18th Annual 'Nutcracker' Ballet":** Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 20 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**"Man of La Mancha":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"Christmas Pageant":** St. Aidan's/Northside Presbyterian Church. A festive afternoon starts with the church's annual Christmas pageant, performed by the children of both congregations. Followed by a group carol sing and refreshments. 5 p.m., St. Aidan's / Northside, 1679 Broadway at Bais Dr. Free. 663-5503.

FILMS

MTF. "Beauty and the Beast" (Jean Cocteau, 1946). See 20 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

23 MONDAY

U-M Men's Basketball vs. EMU. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$21. 764-0247.

★**National Homeschool Music Ensemble.** Katherine Johnson and Donald Dobrowsky lead this ensemble of home-schooled children in works from the band repertoire. Guest artists TBA. 7:30 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Free. 995-1205.

FILMS

MTF. "Beauty and the Beast" (Jean Cocteau, 1946). See 20 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

24 TUESDAY

★**"Marathon Skate":** Ann Arbor Parks Department. December 24 & 31. Skating to music by a DJ, for adults (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) & youths (1:15-5 p.m.). 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$4.25 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, \$3.50). Skate rentals available (\$2). 761-7240.

★**"Lessons and Carols":** First Presbyterian Church. The traditional program of Scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's Chancel Choir and Liberty Brass Quintet. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. 5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466.

★**"Lessons and Carols":** St. Aidan's / Northside Presbyterian Church. Scripture readings alternate with hymns and sacred carols. Preceded by a storytime, with church members telling Christmas tales (5:30 p.m.). 6:30 p.m., St. Aidan's/Northside, 1679 Broadway at Bais Dr. Free. 663-5503.

FILMS

No films.

25 WEDNESDAY (Christmas)

★**"My Fair Lady":** Temple Beth Emeth. All invited to join a rousing sing-along screening of George Cukor's beloved multi-Oscar-winning 1964 film of Lerner & Loewe's musical adaptation of Shaw's *Pygmalion*. Come dressed as a character from the film, perhaps in "one of those fancy hats they wore in those days," suggests an organizer. The charming plot and barbed dialogue, set in early-20th-century London, concern an arrogant professor who sets out to transform a coarse street vendor into a refined lady. Lyrics provided for songs that include "I Could Have Danced All Night," "On the Street Where You Live," and "The Rain in Spain." Rex Harrison, Audrey Hepburn, Stanley Holloway. Also, scones and coffee (9:30 a.m.) and a hot dog lunch (intermission) available. 10 a.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$5 in advance & at the door. 665-4744.

FILMS

Temple Beth Emeth. "My Fair Lady" (George Cukor, 1964). See Events listing above. Mich., 10 a.m.

26 THURSDAY

★**"The Big Freeze":** Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. December 26-31. Kids can drop by for a demonstration about liquid nitrogen or making ice cream (call to find out which is offered) and hands-on activities involving cold and winter, such as making Inuit snow goggles and cutting snowflakes. 1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 219 E. Huron. \$7 (students & seniors, \$5) regular museum admission. 995-5439.

Monthly Meeting: Women with Wings West. All women age 8 & older invited to join a chanting circle. Includes traditional and contemporary chants from a variety of spiritual traditions. 7-8:30 p.m., 1107 Pearl St., Ypsilanti. \$3 donation. 483-6420, 482-0553.

Bill Hildebrandt: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 26-28. This veteran Detroit-area comic is known for his clever, good-natured, often surprising topical and observational humor. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 (Thurs.) & \$7 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$8 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

27 FRIDAY

★**"Silly Stories":** Ann Arbor District Library. Family-oriented program by award-winning local storyteller Laura Pershin Raynor. 10-10:30 a.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Catch the Winter Sun!":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids ages 3 & up invited to create their own colorful mobile. 2-3 p.m., AADL West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. Preregistration required. 327-4200.

★**Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle:** Crazy Wisdom Bookstore and Tea Room. All invited to discuss Sylvia Boorstein's *Pay Attention, for Goodness' Sake: Practicing the Perfections of the Heart—The Buddhist Path of Kindness*. 7-9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-9468.

"Forecasts for 2003": Astrology Study Group of

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Washtenaw County. Talk by financial astrologer (and U-M alum) **Raymond Merriman**, author of *The Sun, the Moon, and the Silver Market: Secrets of a Silver Trader* and *The Gold Book: Geocosmic Correlations To Gold Price Cycles*. Merriman predicts 2003 economic and political trends, stock market levels, interest rates, precious metals prices, and weather. 7:45 p.m., **Best Western Executive Plaza Amphitheater**, 2900 Jackson Rd. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. 434-4555.

Bill Hildebrandt: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

4th Friday Swing. All invited to dance the night away to recorded music. Bring fave CDs. No alcohol or smoking. 9 p.m.-breakfast, **Ann Arbor Civic Theater rehearsal studio**, 408 W. Washington. \$2 (Swing Ann Arbor members, free). 761-2467.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Mad Love" (Vicente Aranda, 2001). December 27-29. Steamy tale, set in the late 15th century, about a Spanish princess, resigned to an arranged marriage with an Austrian archduke, who unexpectedly falls in love when she first sees her hunky betrothed, until he turns out to harbor a fatal flaw. 8 p.m. (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

28 SATURDAY

***Game Night: Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project.** All invited to bring their favorite card or board game to play. 7-9 p.m., **WRAP office**, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 995-9867.

"Chemical Traces: Unabomber Love Story": Dreamland Theater. Performance of puppeteer Naia Venturi and composer Geoff Rowland's popular original marionette musical, a dark comedy about love in the modern world. The action concerns a romance between Bob, an up-and-coming unabomber, and Emily, a disgruntled postal employee, and it features a guest appearance by Ted Koppel's hair. 8 p.m., **Dreamland Theater**, 44 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti. \$5. 485-3454.

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. December 28 & 29. 2 evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance highlighted by Boston College Irish music program director **Seamus Connolly**, a 10-time all-Ireland fiddle champion who is accompanied by California pianist **Barbara McDonald Hogue**. The line-up also includes young local Celtic fiddle trio—**Maura Nicholson**, **Kelsey Lutz**, and **Holland Raper**—who recently took 2nd place in the All-Ireland competition, the **Detroit Ceili Band**, and Irish step dancers. Also, fiddle and piano workshops (for information, call 313-537-3489) December 28 & 29, noon-5 p.m. 8 p.m., **The Ark**, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at **Borders on Liberty**, **Herb David Guitar Studio**, the **Michigan Union Ticket Office**, and all other **Ticketmaster** outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Bill Hildebrandt: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Mad Love" (Vicente Aranda, 2001). See 27 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

29 SUNDAY

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. See 28 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Mad Love" (Vicente Aranda, 2001). See 27 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

30 MONDAY

"Four Nations Tournament. USA Hockey National Team Development Program. December 30 & 31 and January 1 & 2. The Ann Arbor-based **Team USA Under-17** hosts this round-robin tournament which also features the national under-17 junior teams from **Finland**, **Slovakia**, and the **Czech Republic**. The schedule has not been finalized, but the Team USA games are at 7 p.m. each day. The 2 medal games are on January 3. 3:30 & 7 p.m., **Ann Arbor Ice Cube**, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at **Scio Church Rd.** \$10 (students & children, \$5). 327-9251.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

31 TUESDAY (New Year's Eve)

"Four Nations Tournament. USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 30 Monday. 3:30 & 7 p.m.

11th Annual "New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. The fest usually draws about 2,500 visitors and features more than 2 dozen area favorites performing around Depot Town in Ypsilanti.

At the Riverside Arts Center: clowns **Lovely and Derby** (all evening). Magic and comedy by **Boyer and Fitzsimmons** (6:30-7:15 & 8:30-9:15 p.m., club). Kids entertainment by **Marlena Shuler** (7:30-8:15 p.m., club). Poetry readings by **Chameleon Voice** (9:30 p.m.-midnight, club). Comedy by **O. J. Anderson** (7-7:45 & 9:30-10:15 p.m., theater). Elvis reenactment by **Chris Solano** (8-9 p.m., theater).

At Emmanuel Lutheran Church: Acoustic swing and jazz by quintet **Five Guys Named Moe** (7-7:45, 8-8:45, & 9-9:45 p.m., sanctuary). Folk music and stories for kids and adults by the duo **Gemini** (7-9 p.m., hall). Bluegrass by **Coup DeGrass** (9:30 p.m.-midnight).

At the Freight House: Country rock by **Strings & Things** (6-7:30 p.m.). African hand drumming by **Like Water Drumworks** (7:30-9:15 p.m.). Honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll by **George Beard and the Kingpins** (9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.).

At St. Luke's Church: Celtic fiddling by **Jeremy Kittel** (7-7:45 & 8-8:45 p.m., auditorium). Mime by **Michael Lee and Opus Mime** (9-9:45 & 10:15-11 p.m., auditorium). Kids entertainment by **Kevin Devine** (7:30-8:30 p.m., hall). Blues, folk, & jazz by acclaimed harmonica and guitar duo **Madcat & Kane** (9 p.m.-midnight, hall).

At First Presbyterian Church: Opera selections by **Arbor Opera** members (7-7:45 p.m. & 8:15-9 p.m., fellowship hall). Folk and blues by duo **Robert Jones and Matt Watroba** (7-9 p.m., sanctuary). Jazz by the **Paul VornHagen Trio** (9 p.m.-midnight, sanctuary).

At First United Methodist Church: vocal music by the **Choral Connection** (8:30-9:15 & 9:45-10:30 p.m., hall). Jazz guitar by **Jake Reichbart** (10:30 p.m.-midnight, hall). Storytelling by **Barbara Schutzgruber** (6:30-8 p.m., parlor). Classical selections by the woodwind quintet **Con Brio** (8:15-9 p.m., 9:15-10 p.m., parlor). Boogie-woogie and blues piano by **Mr. B** (9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., rotunda).

At the Michigan Firehouse Museum: Folk by the quartet **Old Friends 4** (7-8 p.m.) and by guitarist **Curreth Hayden** (8-10 p.m.).

At the Ypsilanti Historical Museum: classical and flamenco guitar by **Joseph Pratt** (7:30-9:30 p.m.).

At the Dreamland Theater: *Dirt*, an original puppet show about love and dirt, featuring hand-made marionettes (7 & 8 p.m.). Early jazz standards and Hot Club-style gypsy jazz by the **Royal Garden Trio** (7:30 p.m.).

At the Oasis Cafe: hammered dulcimer music by **Charlene Berry** (5:30-8:30 p.m.).

At the Automotive Museum: Houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock by the quintet the **Terraplanes** (7-10 p.m.).

5:30 p.m.-1 a.m., various Ypsilanti locations. Admission tickets \$15 in advance at **Busch's stores**, **Nicola's Books**, and the **Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor convention and visitors bureaus**; \$20 at the door. Children ages 6-12, \$5 (children 5 & under, free) in advance & at the door. For information and a detailed schedule of events, call 483-4444 or 995-7281.


New Year's Eve Potluck and Contra Dance. Peter Baker calls contras to live music by David Orlin and friends. All dances taught; first-timers welcome. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Preceded by a potluck (bring a dish). This dance will fill up quickly, so reserve a spot early. 8 p.m.-2003, **Pittsfield Grange**, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94), Saline. \$15. Preregistration recommended. 665-8863.

D. C. Malone: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Solo performance by this former longtime member of the popular Detroit musical comedy duo **Malone & Nootcheez**. His show blends inventively playful musical parodies, off-the-wall observations, and witty sparring with his audience. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., **old VFW Hall** (below **Seva restaurant**), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets \$25.50 (8 p.m.) & \$29.50 (10:30 p.m.) in advance & at the door. 996-9080.

Funktelligence: The Blind Pig. Very popular local funk-oriented jazz-rock band with a penchant for psychedelia. Opening act is the **Athletic Mic League**, a local hip-hop ensemble. 10 p.m.-midnight (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), **The Blind Pig**, 208 S. First. Tickets \$15 in advance at the **Michigan Union Ticket Office**, & all other **Ticketmaster** outlets; & at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666; for information, call 996-8555.


FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.




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314 East Liberty Ann Arbor

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with **DC Malone**

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Friday 8:00 & 10:30pm
Saturday 8:00 & 10:30pm

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-Rolling Stone

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MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who's playing, it's advisable to call ahead.

Arbor Brewing Company

114 E. Washington 213-1393

This downtown brewpub features a DJ on Tues., 10 p.m.-1 a.m. unless otherwise noted. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: Underground Hip-Hop.** With DJs Potatohead, Irwin Magnetics, and Evista.

The Ark

316 S. Main 761-1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Cover, no dancing. All shows begin at 8 p.m. (Sun., 7:30 p.m.) unless otherwise noted. **Dec. 1: Steve Forbert.** Veteran folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Dec. 2: Dick Siegel.** World-class local singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 3: Battlefield Band.** Traditional Scottish and other Celtic music. See Events. **Dec. 4: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. The first 12 acts to sign up beginning at 7:30 p.m. get to perform. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. \$3 (members & students, \$2). **Dec. 5: Mary Lee's Corvette.** Folk-rock chanteuse performing the entirety of Dylan's *Blood on the Tracks*. **Dec. 6: "Ann Arbor Rockabilly Night."** With George Bedard & the Kingpins and Billy Kirchen & Too Much Fun. See Events. **Dec. 7: Josh White Jr.** Veteran folksinger. See Events. **Dec. 8: Lynn Miles.** Acclaimed young singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 9: Greg Trooper.** Classy alt-country singer-songwriter. **Dec. 10: Shemekia Copeland.** Superb young blues and soul singer. See Events. **Dec. 11: Marianne Faithfull.** Veteran folk-rock chanteuse. See Events. **Dec. 12: Pub Domain and Millish.** Celtic fusion double bill. See Events. **Dec. 13: RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed*, a recording of a 1994 Ark performance. **Dec. 14: Livingston Taylor.** Veteran singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 15: Steppin' in It.** Eclectic acoustic string quartet from Lansing. See Events. **Dec. 17: Deborah Mantel & David Mosher.** Christian singer-songwriter Mantel is accompanied by guitarist Mosher. See Events. **Dec. 18: Open Stage.** See Events. **Dec. 20: Ann Arbor Musicians For Peace.** Benefit performance by this collective of several top-notch local singer-songwriters and bands. **Dec. 21: Finvarra's Wren.** "Solstice Show" by this area Celtic-orientated quartet and guests. **Dec. 28 & 29: "Crossroads Ceili."** An evening of Irish music and dance. See Events.

Bird of Paradise

312 S. Main 662-8310

Intimate jazz club owned by prominent jazz bassist Ron Brooks. Live music 7 nights a week, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. (Fri.-Sun.) & 8 p.m.-midnight (Mon.-Thurs.). Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing only on Wed., Fri. happy hour, & occasional other nights. **Every Sun.: Jazz Jam Session.** All jazz musicians invited. **Every Mon.: Mark Kieswetter.** This jazz pianist is accompanied by bassist Ron Brooks. **Every Tues. & Thurs.** (except Dec. 24 & 31): **Ron Brooks Trio.** One of the state's finest jazz bassists, club owner Brooks is joined by pianist Tad Weed and drummer Pete Siers. With occasional guest vocalists TBA. The group has a CD, *Three B in Flight*. **Every Wed.** (except Dec. 11): **Los Gatos.** Mambo and cha-cha by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. **Dec. 6 (5:30-8 p.m.): Althea Renee.** Jazz, funk, & fusion by an ensemble led by this Detroit flutist. **Dec. 6 & 7: D. D. Jackson.** Acclaimed Canadian pianist. See Events. **Dec. 11: Sona Mo.** This local jazz quartet blends traditional Brazilian jazz with samba and assorted African rhythms. Members—all transplanted South Americans—are mandolinist Francesco Cavallini, accordionist David Passalacqua, bassist Carl Godel, and percussionist Hector Courtois. **Dec. 13 & 14:**

Joce'lyn B and the Detroit Street Players

Power

Everything about Joce'lyn B is big—her band, her nails, her heart, her knockout voice, everything. Since age five, when she went to Rev. C. L. Franklin's church and heard Aretha Franklin sing, she's known she wanted to sing herself. Determination landed her work over the years with the O'Jays, George Clinton, and Donna Summer, and for eight years she lived and performed in New York, on and off Broadway. She came back in the late 1980s because "Detroit is in my blood." Plus, she wanted to sing the blues.

Backstage in her dressing room at Nick Easton's fantastical Cavern Club (with its intimate, rounded tunnels burrowed into the 150-year-old basement), Joce'lyn sits me down and tells beautiful stories about her beloved granny who performed in vaudeville and taught her how to sing. "You can't sing the blues unless you've lived the blues," she warns. We talk for what seems like a long time while she readies herself for the stage. She's powerful and unapologetic—and dressed like a flaming jewel.

Out on the floor, her fifteen-piece, all-male band warms up. Like an expectant groom at the altar, the musicians wait for Joce'lyn to make her entrance. They're playing louder and louder until even my untrained ear can tell it's probably time for her to come out. "Come on," she says, and she walks to the stage door, opening it a crack to reveal



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

the eager faces of her rhythm section. "Give me that cordless," she calls.

Mike in hand, she closes the door and starts talking again. I can hardly hear over the band, so I move closer. Someone from a radio station had called to ask her to perform but then didn't like her set list because the songs weren't about Detroit. The person implied she wasn't representing the city.

The band is cycling up, up. Joce'lyn's eyes widen with rage as she remembers the insult. "They think they can tell me what to sing?" she bellows. "They're gonna call me up and ask me to sing and then tell me what to sing? I love Detroit! I told them to kiss my ass!"

We're standing inches apart. "I guess I'll be calling her to apologize," Joce'lyn says, shaking her head. "But I was real mad. I was hurt." She stares at me. I stare back. Then she takes a step toward the door, flicks on that microphone, and starts singing.

It's like a steam engine, roaring, "Somebody call my momma / And tell her what shape I'm in."

I bet Joce'lyn's momma, wherever she is, could hear her daughter singing and listened in. No phone necessary.

Joce'lyn B returns to the Cavern Club on Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7, and Tuesday, December 31.

—Charmie Gholson

Eliane Elias. Brazilian jazz pianist. See Events. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m. **Dec. 20 & 21: Joey De-Francesco Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by organist DeFrancesco. See Events. 9 & 11 p.m. **Dec. 27 & 28: Randy Napoleon Trio.** Jazz standards and originals, from bebop to modern styles, by a trio led by this New York-based Ann Arbor native. Tonight he celebrates the release of his debut CD, *Enjoy the Moment*, a collection of standards that also includes 2 Napoleon originals, the catchy title tune, and the moody modal tune "To Have, to Lose." With organist Jared Gold and a drummer TBA. **Dec. 31: Shihda Nurullah.** This big-voiced Detroit jazz singer who specializes in blues, ballads, and pop standards is backed by the **Ron Brooks Trio** (see above).

The Blind Pig

208 S. First 996-8555

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Karaoke on Mondays. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Closed most Sun. & Mon. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **Every Tues.** (except Dec. 3, 24, & 31): **"Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Dec. 3: Jim Roll.** Highly regarded local singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 4: Mars III.** Atlanta-based Christian hip-hop duo. See Events. **Dec. 5: Brad's Dead Fish.** Hard-rock band from Saline. Opening acts are **Liplock**, a rap-rock band from Ypsilanti, and **Faces for Radio**, a local pop-rock band. **Dec. 6: Domestic Problems.** Funk-rock sextet from Grand Rapids. Opening act is **Oval Opus**, a pop-rock band from Columbus. **Dec. 7: Saturday Looks Good to Me.** Eclectic local pop-rock band led by the ubiquitous Fred Thomas of Flashpapr and Lovesick. Opening acts are the **Rants**, a classy local surf-punk trio led by singer-guitarist Randy Teachout, and 2 Michigan indie rock bands, **Summersault** and **Pop Project**. **Dec. 11: La Existence.** Local instrumental indie band. Opening acts are **Human Wick Effect**, an Ypsilanti metal band, and **Glori5**, a country-punk band featuring members of Strut, 4%, and Chapstick. **Dec. 12: Phoenix Sidewinders.** Local rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are **Eugene**, a local modern rock quartet, and **5 Times Fast**, a ska-punk band

from Lansing. **Dec. 13: Fith.** Local hard-rock band. Opening acts are the local rock band **Ab-solutely Nothing**, the progressive noise band **Pen Pals**, and the local rock band **Median**. **Dec. 14: Chrome Mali.** Local rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are **Chrome Flies**, a Detroit rock band featuring former members of Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise, and **Krescent 4**, a blues-rock band from Blissfield. **Dec. 18: Hairy Drain Babies.** See Elbow Room. Opening acts are **Betrayer by Birth**, a Lansing hardcore band, and **McQueen**, a local punk band. **Dec. 19: Willhite.** Ypsilanti rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are **Spacecamp**, a Detroit band that plays dreamy, noisy Brit-rock, and **Hundred Days**, a local power-pop quartet. **Dec. 20: Nipple Dust.** Heavy alternative rock band from Ypsilanti. Opening act is **Clear**, a psychedelic rock band from Detroit, and **Mad Mordigan**, an industrial rock band from Toledo. **Dec. 21: 60 Second Crush.** Detroit hard-rock band, led by Motor-dolls bassist Dana Forrester. **Dec. 26: "88.3-FM WCBN Hip-Hop Explosion."** With **Chill Will**, a veteran WCBN hip-hop DJ, and **Klutch Steel Syndicate**, an Ypsilanti hip-hop ensemble. **Dec. 27: Whodawhat.** Local hip-hop ensemble. Opening act TBA. **Dec. 28: The Bang!** DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. **Dec. 31: Funktel-ligence.** Popular local funk-orientated jazz-rock band with a penchant for psychedelia.

Cafe Felix

204 S. Main 662-8650

This downtown cafe features live music Fri., 9 p.m.-midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: The Underground Jazz Quartet.** This local jazz quartet plays a mix of standards, blues, contemporary pieces, and originals, with an emphasis on Hammond B-3 styles of the likes of Jimmy Smith, Larry Young, and Jack McDuff. Members are guitarist Tom Sinas, organist Duncan McMillian, alto saxophonist Dean Moore, and drummer Jordan Young.

Cavern Club

210 S. First 332-9900

This downtown club, in the Celebration Cellars banquet space in the basement under the Millennium Club, features DJs on Thurs. and live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to

Millennium Club and Gotham City), dancing. Ages 21 & older admitted. **Every Thurs.: House/Techno Night.** With DJ Mad Maxx. **Dec. 6 & 7: Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players.** See review, above. Detroit blues band led by Joce'lyn B, a popular vocalist who's said to blend the voice of "Bessie Smith, the attitude of Mae West, and the mouth of Moms Mabley." **Dec. 13: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Dec. 14: Bugs Beddow Band.** Versatile horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Beddow. **Dec. 20 & 21: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **Dec. 27 & 28: Gordon Bennett.** Covers and originals by this Detroit rock 'n' roll quintet. **Dec. 31: Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players.** See above. Opening act is the **Killer Flamigos** (see Millennium Club).

Club Above

215 N. Main 663-7758

This renovated dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg Restaurant features a variety of live and recorded music. Wed.-Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Also, comedy on Tues. (see Events). Cover, dancing. Ages 21 & older admitted unless otherwise noted. **Every Wed.: "Ghostly International Night."** Techno music with Analogic DJs Todd Osbourne, Matthew Dear, and Tadd Mullinex. **Every Thurs.: Asian Night.** DJs play Asian techno and other Asian dance music. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Latino Night.** DJ Carlos plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9-10 p.m. **Every Sun.: Mexican Night.** With a live Mexican band. **Dec. 31: Deep Space Six.** Local Grateful Dead cover band.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main 665-2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (6:30-10 p.m.) and Tues.-Thurs. and occasional other nights (9 p.m.-2 a.m.). **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Every Tues.: Trafford.** This

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NIGHTSPOTS continued

local trio performs covers of all sorts of music, from traditional Irish to classic rock and pop. **Every Wed.: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Dec. 5: The Diggers.** Traditional Irish ballads and drinking songs by this Detroit band. **Dec. 12: Bill Long.** Irish rock and American pop by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 19: Mossy Moran.** See above. **Dec. 26:** No music.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main 665-9468

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30-10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 6: Matt Jones.** Local singer-songwriter. Opening act is **Kyle Norris**, a local singer-songwriter who writes richly imagined folk-style songs. **Dec. 7: Ralston.** Grand Rapids singer-songwriter known for his dry wit. **Dec. 13: Barzin.** Hypnotically moody original songs by this recent transplant from Toronto whose music has been described as "post emo or Velvet Underground retro." **Dec. 14: Jason Dennie.** Highly regarded acoustic guitarist from Cincinnati who plays an eclectic brand of folk-based music in the tradition of John Fahey, Leo Kottke, and Michael Hedges. **Dec. 20: The Royal Garden Trio.** Early jazz standards and Hot Club-style gypsy jazz by this local trio led by guitarist Brian Delaney. With cellist Michael Karoub and clarinetist and tenor guitarist Tom Bogardus. **Dec. 21: Glenn Poorman.** Acclaimed Chapman stick player from Detroit. **Dec. 27: DSM.** Local pop-folk duo. **Dec. 28: Corn-daddy.** See Leopold Bros. Tonight's show is an acoustic performance.

Del Rio

122 W. Washington 761-2530

No cover, no dancing. Live music Sun., 5:30-9 p.m., and Tues., 5-7 p.m. **Dec. 1: Vincent York & Friends.** Jazz ensemble led by alto saxophonist York. **Dec. 3: Chad Williams.** Local country-folk singer-songwriter. **Dec. 8: Jake Reichbart Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by local guitarist Reichbart. **Dec. 10: Delta 88.** Classy local country quartet led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Danny Kline and featuring guitarist Alex Anest, bassist John Sperendi, and drummer Jim Latini. **Dec. 15: Vincent York & Friends.** See above. **Dec. 17: Hal Hixson.** Experimental folk-rock by this Chicago-based singer-songwriter and guitarist. **Dec. 22: Steve Wood Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by Wood, a Detroit tenor saxophonist. **Dec. 29: Bassline Jumper.** Jazz ensemble led by local bassist Kurt Krahnke.

The Earle

121 W. Washington 994-0211

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.-Sat., 8-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillian.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Robert Warren, and a drummer TBA.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti 483-6374

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs on Sun., Wed., & Thurs. and occasional Mon. & Tues., 9 p.m.-1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: Swing-a-Billy.** DJ Del Villareal spins swing, jump blues, and rockabilly records. Also, free swing & jitterbug dance lessons (7:30-8:30 p.m.). **Every Mon.: Miss Pia.** This DJ plays a wide range of vintage dance music, from British Invasion and Motown to disco and 80s pop. **Every Wed.: "First Jazz Night."** Jazz improv workshop hosted by the **Anagram Ensemble**, an ad hoc ensemble organized by bassist James Ilgenfritz that includes members of Larval, Full, and Saturday Looks Good to Me. **Every Thurs.: DJ Chuck.** DJ who plays punk records. **Dec. 4: Submarines.** Ypsilanti punk band. Opening acts are **PB Army**, a goof-rock band from Toledo, and **The Bitter Pills**, a local trio led by 2 former State members, singer-guitarist Preston Woodward and drummer Keir Murray, that plays clamorous, frenetic Detroit-Ann Arbor power-chord punk ditties of social desolation. With bassist Rob Koeff and occasional guests. **Dec. 6: Lickgoldensky.** Art metal band from Philadelphia. Opening acts are the metal band **Misery Signals**, the Detroit scream-metal band **Ganon**, and the Ypsilanti speed-metal band **Youth-**



At the Ark Dec. 3, the Battlefield Band performs from a repertoire that includes traditional and original Scottish songs as well as old, haunting Celtic tunes and a dash of American pop.

corpse. **Dec. 7: Skeleton Key.** Clangorous sheet-metal pop by this acclaimed New York City quartet that has been described as "downtown-bred sophistication meets full-throttle southern wham." Opening acts are the **Terranauts**, an Ann Arbor-Pontiac rock 'n' roll band whose influences range from the Ramones and the Stooges to Cheap Trick to Mudhoney, and **Charlevoix**, a local rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 8: Kristin Forbes.** Pop-folk singer-songwriter from Boston. Opening act is **Joan Riedl**, a pop-folk singer-songwriter with a punk attitude. **Dec. 13: The Clouds.** Indie rock band from Chicago. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 14: The Terranauts.** See above. Opening acts are the **Drapes**, Punk blues band from Chicago, and the **Singles**, a Detroit band that plays 60s-style Britpop. Also, a set by the pop band **Tenley**. **Dec. 17: Girlush Figure.** Grrl rock trio from Richmond, Virginia. Opening acts are **Lanternjack**, a Downriver punk band, and the **Submarines** (see above). **Dec. 20: Dropjaw.** Melodic emocore band from Ypsilanti. Opening acts are 2 other emocore bands, **Kinsella** and **Prop Down**. **Dec. 21: Hair Drain Babies.** Local punk rock band. Opening acts are **I-defy**, a metal band, and the **Social Retards**, a local band that plays edgy postpunk rock 'n' roll. **Dec. 27: The Blackletter Saints.** Snotty punk band. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 28: Whiskey Tenor.** Country-flavored emocore. **Dec. 31: TBA.**

Espresso Royale Caffè

214 S. Main 668-1838

The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live music on Sat., 9-11 p.m. **Every Fri.: Open Mike.** All poets and musicians invited. 8-9:30 p.m. **Dec. 7: David Mosher.** An eclectic mix of acoustic originals by this popular local singer-songwriter and virtuoso guitarist who has released a CD, *Sycamore Tree*. **Dec. 14: Charlie Dentel.** Soulful blues-, jazz-, and gospel-based pop originals and standards by this local singer-pianist. **Dec. 21: Blair.** Detroit singer-songwriter whose rhythmically insistent music spans a variety of genres, from acoustic folk and pop to garage and electronica.

The Firefly Club

207 S. Ashley 665-9090

Jazz and blues club. Live jazz Sun., 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.; Mon., Wed., & Thurs., 8 p.m.-midnight; and Tues., Fri., & Sat., 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Fri., 5:30-8 p.m., and Sun., 5-8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri. (5:30-8 p.m.): Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun. (5-8 p.m.): Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 20s and early 30s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The lineup also includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: Bop Culture.** Local modern jazz quartet led by pianist Rick Roe. With trumpeter Mark Byerly, bassist Paul Keller, and drummer Bill Higgins. No cover. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the

Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. **Every Wed. (except Dec. 26): Paul Keller Ensemble.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 horns. **Dec. 3: Into the Freylakh.** Energetic local avant-klezmer sextet. **Dec. 5: Mulgrew Miller.** Acclaimed jazz pianist. See Events. **Dec. 6: Los Gatos.** See Bird of Paradise. **Dec. 10: U-M Jazz Combo.** Ensemble of U-M music school jazz students. **Dec. 12: TBA.** **Dec. 13: Debbie Davies Group.** Blues band. See Events. **Dec. 14: Jake Reichbart Quartet.** See Del Rio. **Dec. 17: Full.** Popular local avant-pop sextet, fronted by the gorgeous vocals of Kate Lamb, that mixes elements of rock, electronica, jazz, and classical music. Opening act is **James Ilgenfritz's Anagram Ensemble**, an avant-jazz ensemble led by local bassist Ilgenfritz. **Dec. 20: Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio.** Ann Arbor's most passionate and compelling roots-rocker performs fiercely cathartic, blues-drenched reworkings of rock 'n' roll and rockabilly classics and obscure gems, along with some authentic Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker blues. **Dec. 21: Louis Smith Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit bebop trumpeter Smith, a retired U-M jazz professor and Pioneer High music teacher. **Dec. 26: Closed.** **Dec. 27: Bop Culture.** See above. Tonight the band celebrates the release of a new CD. **Dec. 28: Al Hill & the Love Butlers.** Soulful swing, New Orleans-style funk, and boogie-woogie blues by this local band led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano. The band has a CD, *Willie Mae*. **Dec. 31: TBA.**

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron 623-2070

New martini and cigar bar connected to D'Amato's restaurant. Live jazz Wed.-Sat., 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. **Every Tues. (except Dec. 24 & 31): "Deep-Chilled House & Techno."** With DJ R. Elliot. **Every Wed.: Cloud Nine Music.** Highly regarded funk-rock instrumental-oriented party band from Jackson featuring the deep, raspy vocals of bassist Jamie Register. **Every Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi.** An Eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 6: Dave Luther Group.** Local jazz-rock band led by saxophonist Luther. **Dec. 7: Carl Michel Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by this local guitarist. **Dec. 13: Robert Tye Group.** Jazz trio led by this veteran Detroit guitarist. **Dec. 14: Odessa Harris.** This Detroit vocalist, who sings bluesy jazz in the style of Dinah Washington, is backed by a jazz trio. **Dec. 20: Dave Sharp Quartet.** Hard-bop, ballads, and straight-ahead jazz by this local quartet led by bassist Sharp. **Dec. 21: Blackman & Arnold.** Gypsy jazz by a quartet led by guitarists Sean Blackman and John Arnold. **Dec. 27: Dave Sharp Quartet.** See above. **Dec. 28: Carl Michel Trio.** See above. **Dec. 31: Odessa Harris.** See above.

Gotham City

210 S. First 913-8890

This downtown dance club, located above the Cavern Club and adjacent to the Millennium Club, features DJs on Thurs.-Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Cavern and Millennium clubs).



Singer-songwriter Marianne Faithfull performs pointed, sometimes barbed originals at the Ark Dec. 11, including songs from her acclaimed new CD, *Kissin' Time*.

dancing. Ages 21 & older admitted. **Every Thurs.:** Hip-hop Night. With a DJ TBA. **Every Fri. & Sat.:** House Night. With DJ Mad Maxx.

The Habitat

3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636
Lounge at Weber's Inn. Solo piano (6-9 p.m.) by Adam Riccinto (Tues.-Fri.) and Tom Knapp (Sat. & Sun.). Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.:** "Swank Life." DJ Al Velour spins vintage big-band records. Period attire encouraged. 4 p.m.-midnight. **Dec. 3-5: Rave.** Top 40 dance band. **Dec. 6 & 7: Nite Flight.** Local reggae and calypso band. **Dec. 12-14: Destiny.** Latin pop dance band. **Dec. 19: Rave.** See above. **Dec. 20 & 21: Starlight Drifters.** See Tap Room. **Dec. 26: "House Music."** With DJ Al. **Dec. 27, 28, & 31: The Diamond Dukes.** Classic R&B and rock dance band.

Leonardo's

2101 Bonisteel Blvd. 764-7544
Performance area in the food court at the Pierpont Commons on the U-M North Campus. No dancing, no cover. **Dec. 3: Jazz Jam Session.** All musicians invited. 8-10 p.m. **Dec. 4: Jazz Combos.** Performances by various U-M student jazz ensembles. 8-10 p.m. **Dec. 6: "Salsa Night."** Don Zon Productions DJs play salsa and merengue dance records.

Leopold Bros.

523 S. Main 747-9806
This downtown brewpub features live music occasional Sun., 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., and Wed., Sat., & occasional other nights, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Ages 21 & older admitted. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 4: Comdaddy.** Local alt-country band led by singer-songwriters Kevin Brown and Jud Branam whose music mixes equal parts of Gram Parsons and Uncle Tupelo. Opening act is the Exhaust Tones, a group of auto journalists and publicists that plays rocking originals. **Dec. 7: Full.** Popular local avant-pop sextet, fronted by the gorgeous vocals of Kate Lamb, that mixes elements of rock, electronica, jazz, and classical music. Opening acts are the Royal Oak progressive pop-rock band Product and 2 DJs, DJ enD and DJ Vulpine. **Dec. 11: Patrick Thomas.** Local indie rock singer-songwriter. Opening acts are 2 local indie rock bands, Rosetta and The Book Was Better. **Dec. 14: The Waxwings.** Detroit pop-rock band. Opening act is the Witches, also a Detroit pop-rock band. **Dec. 18: "Kidstock."** Performances by several local singer-songwriters and folk-rock bands to raise money for the Easter Children's Fund. See Events. **Dec. 21: Mogue Doyle.** Original Irish rock by this local quartet that has released the CD *God's Own*. Opening act is the Dave Brophy Band, a band led by former Mogue Doyle member Brophy. **Dec. 28: "2nd Annual Audio Collective."** A mix of house, electro, hip-hop, and old-school by DJ Red 6, DJ Furta, and DJ Virus. **Dec. 31: Smokestack.** Bluesy, groove-oriented Ypsilanti quintet that recently released the CD *It's Coming Down*. With guest performers TBA.

Millennium Club

210 S. First 913-8890
This downtown dance club, located above the Cavern Club and adjacent to the Gotham City club, features DJs Thurs.-Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Cavern Club and Gotham City), dancing. Ages 21 & older admitted. **Every Thurs.-Sat.** (except Dec. 27 & 28): Hip-Hop Night. With DJ Mad Maxx. **Dec. 27 & 28: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Wayne.

Mitch's Place

1301 South University 665-2650
This bar and grill features live music, Tues. & frequent other nights, 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Cover, some dancing. **Every Tues.:** Jerry Sprague. Veteran local roots-rock singer-guitarist. Remainder of Dec. schedule TBA.

Necto

510 E. Liberty 994-5436
This popular local dance club features local and national DJs 5 nights a week, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (after 10 p.m.), dancing. **Every Tues. & Fri.:** "Pride Night." U.K. house and club dance music, with DJ Timmy D. **Every Wed.:** "Rewind." DJs spin 80s dance records. **Every Thurs.:** "Lust." House and techno with national and international guest DJs. This month: Starecase (Dec. 5), Stacey Pullen (Dec. 12), and Ben Wu (Dec. 19). The club is closed Dec. 26. **Every Sat.:** "Frequency." Popular Detroit DJ Dan Diamond, recently returned from a 2-year stint in Las Vegas, plays a mix of house, hip-hop, and trance dance music.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty 761-9291
This downtown corner bar features live music Sun., 8-10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 1: Laura Davidson.** Local jazz-inflected folk-rock singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist known for her luscious melodies and trenchant lyrics. Her recent songs have a strong bossa nova flavor. **Dec. 8: Brian Brickley.** Solo performance by this blues-rock singer-songwriter and guitarist, the leader of the Martindales and owner of the Tap Room. **Dec. 15: Roger Possley.** Traditional English, Scottish, and Welsh folk songs, along with Great Lakes sailing songs, by this folksinger who plays guitar, mandolin, and cittern. **Dec. 22: Tim Monger.** Country-folk singer-songwriter from the Original Brothers & Sisters of Love. **Dec. 29: Paul Lippens.** Local country-folk singer-songwriter.

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church 996-2747
This campus-area club features DJs Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat., 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Mon. & Thurs.:** "Jammin' DJs." DJs TBA play dance music. **Every Wed.:** "High Energy Dance Party." With DJ John King. **Every Fri. & Sat.:** Supermack. Techno music with DJs from Supermack Productions.

Rubber Soul Records

23 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti 483-8834
Record shop-coffeehouse in Depot Town. Live music Fri., 8-10 p.m., & occasional Sat., 7-8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. December schedule TBA.

Scorekeepers Sports Bar & Grill

310 Maynard 995-0100
DJs on Thurs.-Sat. Cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.-Sat.:** Dance Music. With DJ John King.

Studio 4

313 S. Fourth Ave. 302-3687
This dinner club features DJs Wed.-Sat., 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Wed. & Thurs.:** Top 40 dance music. **Every Fri.-Sat.:** 70s-90s Top 40 dance music.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483-4470
This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features DJs on Tues. (9 p.m.-1 a.m.) and dance bands on Fri. & Sat. (9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.). Solo piano by Art Stephan on Fri., 6-9 p.m. Dancing, no cover unless otherwise noted. **Dec. 6: Metaphysical Jones.** Jam band from Lansing. **Dec. 7: South Normal.** Popular Chelsea quintet whose anthemic rock 'n' roll originals are known for their tight arrangements, imaginatively varied rhythms, garage-band versatility, and slacker attitude. **Dec. 13: Ghettoillies.** A local acoustic guitar trio that specializes in sweet and gritty country-rock with glee-club harmonies, a frat band lyrical sensibility, and occasional neopsychedelic yearnings. **Dec. 19: Dusty Libido.** Jam-oriented dance-rock band from Ypsilanti. **Dec. 20** (6-9 p.m.): Rob Moses. This pianist leads a Christmas carol sing-along. **Dec. 21, 27, & 28:** No music.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482-5320
This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music 5 nights a week, usually 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., with karaoke on Sun., 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. **Every Sun.:** Kris Kashew's Musical Rollercoaster. DJ plays dance records. **Every Mon.:** Open Mike Unplugged. Hosted by Chris Buhalis, a local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. All acoustic performers invited. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. **Every Tues.:** Blues Jam. Hosted by the Danny Pratt Band, a local blues band led by singer-guitarist Pratt. All bands and musicians invited. **Every Wed.:** Tim Fagan. This local singer-guitarist promises to deliver "bombastic takes on familiar hits." **Every Thurs.:** Open Mike. Hosted by The Martindales, a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All acoustic and electric musicians invited. **Dec. 5: Steve Somers Band.** Top-notch soul-flavored R&B, blues, and 70s funk sextet led by Steve Somers, a versatile guitarist with a pungent, staccato style, and vocalist Valerie Barrymore. **Dec. 6: The Glenn Eddie Band.** Vintage blues by this Detroit-area band led by singer-guitarist Eddie. **Dec. 13: R.J.'s Rhythm Rockets.** Swinging blues by this Detroit band led by drummer R. J. Spangler. **Dec. 14: The Martindales.** See above. **Dec. 20: Blue Zone.** Blues and R&B band led by vocalists Ray Ward and Stacia. **Dec. 21: The Danny Pratt Band.** See above. **Dec. 27: Starlight Drifters.** Rockabilly and honky-tonk originals and covers by this local quartet led by indomitable local rocker Chris Casello, who plays electric and steel guitar. With vocalist Billy Alton, bassist Brad Ber, and drummer Mike Kissick. The band's 2nd CD, *Every Note a Pearl*, comes with a recommendation from Jack Scott, whose immortal "The Way I Walk" the band covers, and their 3rd CD was released last year on the Las Vegas-based Rolling Rock label. **Dec. 31: Ejuana "Fire" Taylor.** Band led by this veteran Detroit R&B and soul singer.

Touchdown Cafe

1220 South University 665-7777
This campus-area cafe features music Wed.-Fri., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Wed. & Fri.:** DJs TBA play hip-hop and other dance records. **Every Thurs.:** Live bands TBA.

Zydeco

314 S. Main 995-3600
Live music Mon.-Sat., 7-9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon. & Tues.:** Pianist TBA. **Every Wed.:** Tim Brockett. Blues & jazz pianist. **Every Thurs.-Sat.:** Pianist TBA.

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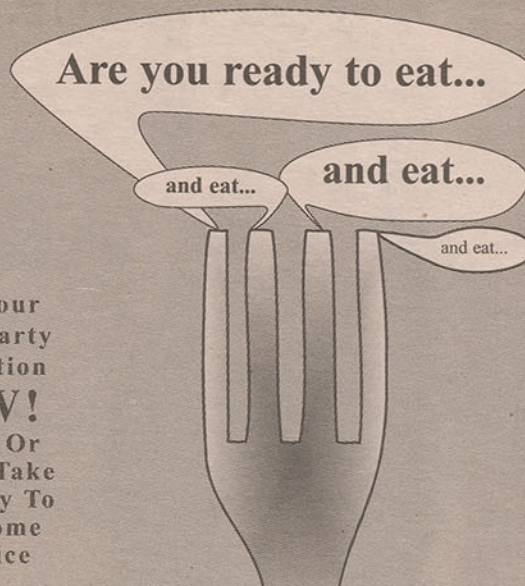


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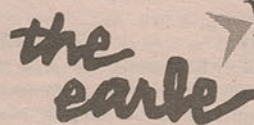
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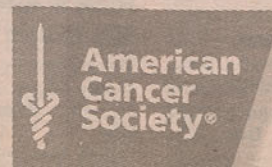


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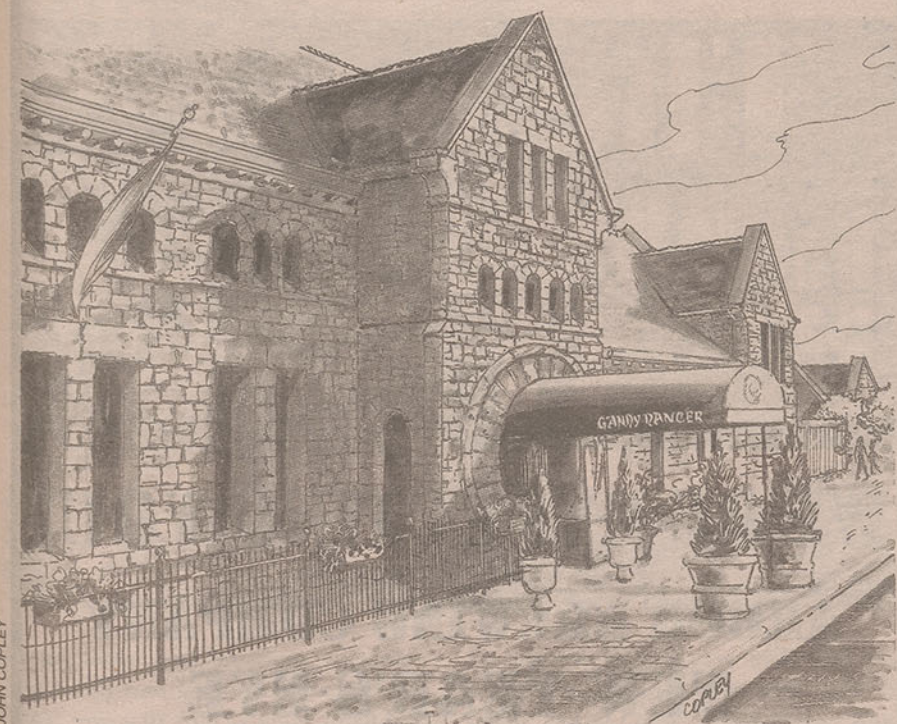
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RESTAURANTS



Gandy Dancer

Quiet quality

In my endless quest for new and exciting places to eat, I sometimes forget about the old standbys, the quality restaurants that go quietly about their business, serving well-planned menus to a happy clientele. The Gandy Dancer, open since 1970, certainly is one of those. Although the entire Chuck Muer chain (of which the Gandy Dancer is a part) was sold to Landry's last year, changes were minimal. You won't find much that's trendy or flashy here—just a basic, mostly seafood menu, elegantly served in the unbeatable atmosphere of the old Michigan Central depot. The beautiful stone building, dating from 1886, has gorgeous, high wooden ceilings and full-length windows for viewing passing trains. The Gandy Dancer makes the most of the train-station decor without ever slipping into kitsch.

The Gandy Dancer serves four different kinds of raw oysters, two East and two West Coast, and when we couldn't choose, our server suggested a plate with some of each. All were excellent: fresh and not at all gritty, tasting of pure ocean.

A chainwide innovation, to which the Gandy Dancer has subscribed, is a rotating menu of inventive appetizers. Through December the promotion is called "nuts over shrimp" and features six appetizers using both ingredients. I especially liked the Thai cashew shrimp, served atop noodles in a coconut milk and curry sauce. The monsoon shrimp also disappeared fast at our table. The shredded phyllo breaded lent crunch, making crisp little bites to dip into the accompanying plum sauce.

One of my favorite entrees was a simple fillet of Atlantic salmon, broiled with minimal seasoning, cooked not a split second longer than necessary. Somewhat fussier, but also enjoyable, was the halibut

Oscar, topped with lump crab and béarnaise sauce. The firm, flavorful halibut stood up well to the rich sauce. Not so the Lake Superior whitefish, so lost under its heavy crust that it might as well have been a potato-bacon patty. All fish entrees were served with an onion-studded rice pilaf and steamed broccoli rabe.

Feeling reckless one night, I ordered a filet mignon, wondering what red meat would be like at a seafood restaurant. Both the steak and the accompanying mashed potatoes were about what I expected: fine, but not outstanding.

You don't see Dover sole on many local menus. A pity, because it's a mild, almost sweet fish, needing very little seasoning to be at its best. The Gandy Dancer treats the sole gently, with just a light breading and fast panfry. Delicious. The Charley's Bucket reminded me of a lobster bake: potatoes, corn on the cob, clams, mussels, crab, and lobster, all steamed in a heavy metal bucket. The lobster was absolutely divine: mild and sweet and perfectly cooked. Some things in the rest of the bucket were underdone, some overdone, leading me to believe the lobster cooking time was the determining factor. Dover sole and Charley's Bucket are both labor-intensive food, but don't worry, you won't be doing the labor. A waiter bones the sole tableside and also cracks the lobster for you.

I like to joke that I'd trade my car for the perfect slice of Key lime pie, and the Gandy Dancer's huge slab of custardy, lusciously tart pie was so good that I should have walked home. My guest ordered the seasonal Sleepy Hollow, a sliver of carrot cake topped with a dainty dollop of pumpkin cheesecake: both good. No dessert menu would be complete without something sinfully chocolate, and the *media luna*—layers of chocolate cake, chocolate mousse, and more chocolate—is one for the record books. The brandy-rum

sauce and fresh raspberries took it from sweet to sublime.

Having seen a lot of poor service in town, I was surprised, bordering on thrilled, with the treatment I got at the Gandy Dancer. Sure, we had a waiter all to ourselves on a slow weekday, but even at the crowded Sunday brunch buffet, our waiter still spoiled us with endless refills of coffee and fresh-squeezed orange juice.

I'm usually wary of Sunday brunch, because it's a chance for restaurants to unload anything that didn't sell on Saturday night. However, I saw little evidence of that at the Gandy Dancer. Omelets were cooked to order in one corner, while an endless parade of waffles emerged from another. In addition to all the usual breakfast foods, there were shrimp, salmon, roast beef, ham, and enough desserts to satisfy even a chocoholic like me. I ate several servings of everything and loved every bite. Brunch is also a great time to introduce kids to the pleasures of grown-up dining. Kids under ten pay just a dollar per year of age. Even at the adult price of \$18.95, this is one of the few expensive brunches where I felt I truly got my money's worth.

Although I adore my forays into uncharted restaurant territory, it's nice to know about a restaurant that reliably serves quiet meals, in elegant surroundings, with gracious staff. It's nice to know that I can always come back to the Gandy Dancer.

—Margaret Yang

Gandy Dancer

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Jonathan's

Diner redux

For those of us who value plain, Greek-owned restaurants where the food is hot, ordinary, and plentiful and the waitresses call you "Hon," the closing of Manikas back in the mid-1990s was a bit of a tragedy. But Jonathan's Family Restaurant is doing a fine job filling the void. Housed in an unprepossessing little strip mall out on Jackson Road, Jonathan's meets all my requirements for a successful diner: it's bright and clean, with a lot of Formica, cheesy "paintings," a rather ineffectual smoking section, and an illuminated pie and cake display unit next to the cash register.

On Sunday mornings it's a true-blue American crowd out there: families pre- and post-church, a smattering of young lovers, and a whole lot of seniors. This is a



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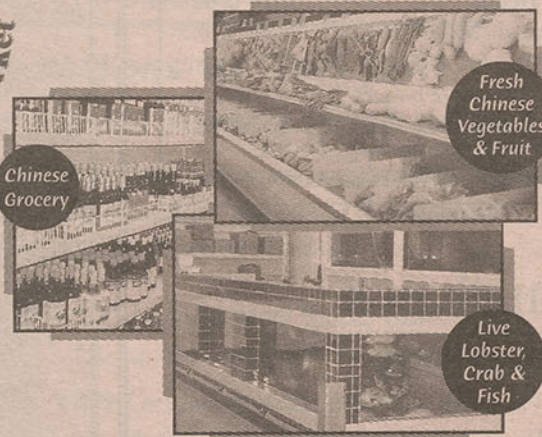
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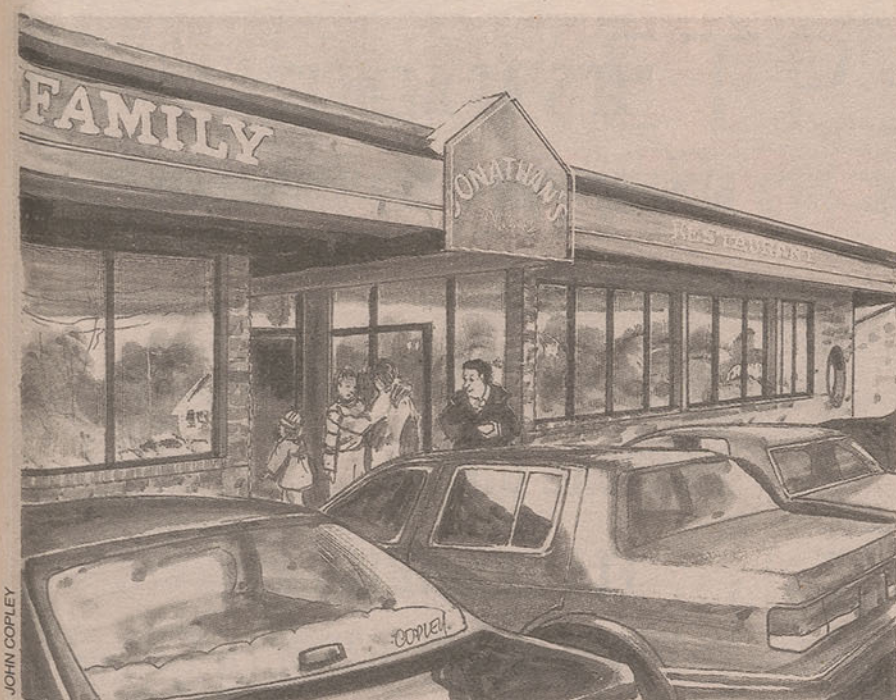


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chatty, rather than brooding, clientele—you won't find anyone reading Goethe. What you will find is what Jonathan's does best: breakfast for the masses.

I always get the same thing: the spinach and feta omelet. Cramped with chopped spinach and adorned with good, hot potatoes (ask for them with onions) and your choice of toast, English muffin, or a biscuit, this one's always a winner. Someone else always orders the fluffy, bland pancakes covered with unrealistically red strawberries and lots of whipped cream and eats every bite. When we're feeling particularly thin, we adorn our order with a side of sausage gravy, which goes great with just about everything.

One Saturday afternoon at about 4:30, after hours of suffering with my son over an essay about the use of irony in *The Scarlet Letter*, we impulsively fled to Jonathan's for an early dinner. The waitress told me the veggie lasagna is pretty popular, so that's what I ordered. I got a serviceable iceberg lettuce salad followed by a broiling-hot square of Italianate comfort food that was entirely edible. It was also uninteresting, but I wasn't there to dine—I was there to eat. Jonathan's was a great place to escape Hawthorne and to hang with my son while he ate chicken strips and fries—a pop art study in golden linearity.

On another visit I ventured into the heart of Hellas, ordering the egg-lemon soup. My companion put it best when he tasted it and said, "It doesn't taste like lemons." Another friend ordered a Greek salad and got the expected big bowl of lettuce, garnished with a couple of tomatoes and some feta. My entree took a culinary 180: broiled whitefish, which was neither blackened, "Cajun" style, nor served on any kind of wooden plank. It was plain and fine and there was lots of it, served with mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables that reminded me of my grandmother's house and summer camp. I would never buy vegetables like that knowingly, but when they are served by a waitress who calls me "Hon," I eat them and I like them.

The last frontier was dessert. I asked

the waitress whether those cakes and pies in the shiny display case were made in house, and she sadly admitted they were not. I asked whether any dessert item was. After thinking a minute, she piped up "Rice pudding!" and hustled back to get it.

And there it was. Jonathan's rice pudding is the real deal, beyond creamy, with smoochy rice and plenty of cinnamon. We bought a few extras to take home.

—Kate Conner-Ruben

Jonathan's Family Restaurant
4389 Jackson Road 662-4411
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. & Sat. 6 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Sun. 7 a.m.-9 p.m.

Price range: Breakfasts \$2.45-\$9.95
Entrees \$7.45-\$11.75
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Quick Bite

It's time to think about **reservations for your holiday dinner**. No, I'm not talking about Christmas or New Year's Eve; I'm talking about Valentine's Day, which falls on a Friday in '03. Most restaurants take reservations six to eight weeks in advance, so most won't start booking for Valentine's Day until after the New Year, but policies vary widely: when I called several restaurants to find out the ideal time to book, responses ranged from "The sooner the better" (Mediterrano) to "Not until a week or two ahead" (the Earle). If you want to be absolutely sure to get a table, the West End Grill takes reservations up to a year in advance. If you forget to book until almost the last minute, Yotsuba and Paesano's usually don't fill their reservation books until a week before the big day.

—M.Y.

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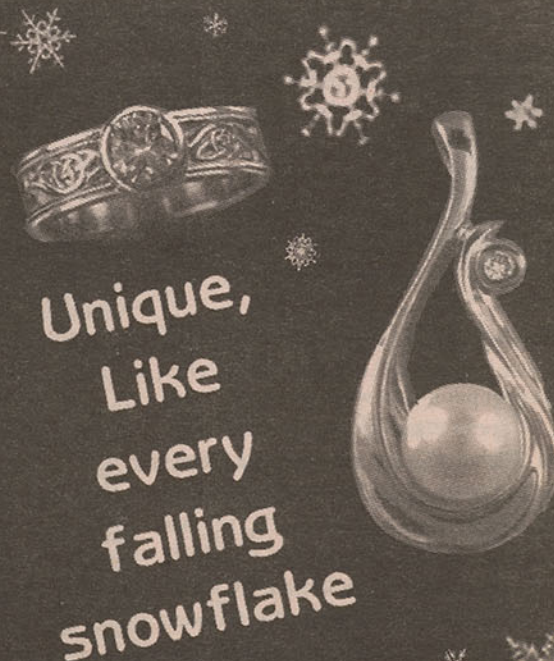
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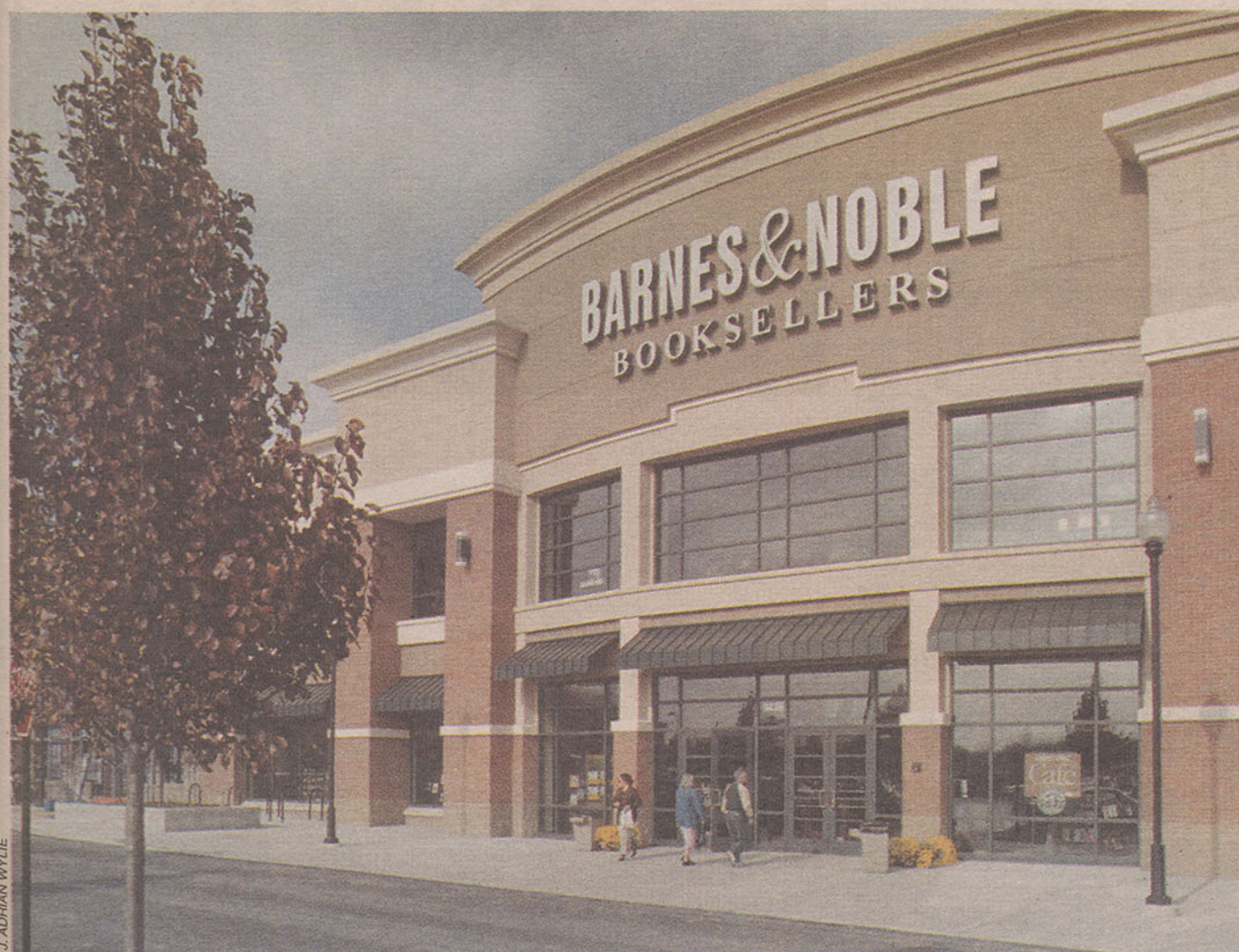
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The bookstore as monument

B&N stakes its claim on Borders' home turf

On Washtenaw Avenue, Barnes & Noble has upped the ante in its battle with Borders Books & Music for the hearts and dollars of east-side book buyers. When the New York-based chain arrived in Ann Arbor in 1993, its store at the corner of Huron Parkway was reasonably state-of-the-art, with plenty of comfortable seating for browsers and an in-store cafe. But even before Borders opened a branch in nearby Arborland a couple of years ago, the Barnes & Noble store had begun to seem almost cramped. "Large-format bookstores with gift departments and DVD departments have emerged" since the Ann Arbor store opened, says David Deason, Barnes & Noble's vice-president in charge of development. "The Huron Parkway facility became outdated."

Now B&N is demonstrating the new state of the art with a gigantic store right

behind the original one, in the new Huron Village shopping center. The freestanding, two-level building, at 30,000 square feet, is more than twice as big as the original. And unlike the old location, which faced the parkway with minimal exposure on Washtenaw, the new store has a monumental facade that functions as a tasteful but gigantic billboard, affording the bookstore chain unmatched visibility and a dominant east-side presence.

The new store will not only carry twice as many books and magazines as the old one but also add DVDs and music, for a grand total of over 200,000 titles.

The new store will not only carry twice as many books and magazines as the old one but also add DVDs and music, for a grand total of over 200,000 titles. Customers can preview any CD in the store—as well as thousands of titles available by special or-

der—through Barnes & Noble's new RedDotNet sampling system at listening stations throughout the music department.

Although Barnes & Noble is no doubt keenly aware that it's positioning itself against Ann Arbor's hometown bookstore chain, Deason insists that Borders had nothing to do with the decision to build the new store. "If they weren't there, I would do the exact same thing," he says. "Although personally, I think we built a much finer bookstore offering."

Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 3235 Washtenaw, 973-0846. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Road Runner replaces Azure

The restaurant as travelogue

Name your restaurant **Road Runner**, and the first thing most people will think of is the classic Chuck Jones cartoon about a high-speed bird and his hapless nemesis, Wile E. Coyote. But while Ali Jamshidi's new restaurant, like the cartoon, includes images of the American Southwest like gold mines, cacti, and desert mesas as well as a playful tribute to the show's fictional Acme products (cata-



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pulps, poisoned birdseed), the place is as much about the road as about the bird who ran on it. Think Jack Kerouac meets Warner Brothers, and add a nation-spanning menu of regional classics.

With the help of talented muralist Katherine Larson, Jamshidi has transformed the former Azure restaurant by Briarwood into an ode to the open road. A G-scale model train with a Colorado Southern Railroad engine and a cheerful red caboose runs on an overhead track through tunnels, crosses two elaborate wooden trestles, and streaks past Larson's evocative murals of American city skylines by night: New York, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, Seattle, and Phoenix, whose stunning rendering is lit by fiber optics. One wall is devoted to a mountain-scape; the ceiling is a serene blue sky with fluffy airbrushed clouds.

The menu, created by head chef Steve Szczepanski, is a travelogue of its own, with Santa Fe crab cakes, Thai spring rolls, and Cuban shaved pork presented alongside meat loaf, lobster ravioli, vegetable strudel, and a Philly-style burger. "America is such a melting pot, we're pretty much doing everything we can," says Szczepanski. "Whatever sounds good that day is what I'm making."

Szczepanski is making everything from scratch, including his own sauces, stocks, breads, and desserts. He even plans to cut and smoke his own meat and fish. "Lots of stranded sauces, lots of garnish, lots of color," he promises. "The presentation will be incredible."

The ambitious menu also lists thirty gourmet pizzas, including chicken pesto, wild mushroom, even a New England clam chowder pizza and an Indian-inspired variation with curry. Desserts range from the classic—tiramisu and a Black Forest torte—to the exotic—chocolate cake layered with jalapeño-spiked chocolate mousse. The restaurant will also serve Sunday brunch, including waffles, omelets, and breakfast pizzas featuring eggs.

Road Runner is as distinctive outside as inside, with a new desert-taupe-and-red color scheme, an eye-catching twenty-two-foot windmill, a giant birdhouse hovering over the entrance, and what will by next

summer be a cacti-filled outdoor patio. What it suggests, more than anything else, is one of Las Vegas's new high-concept casinos—and the comparison is all right with Jamshidi. "There's something for the family and the kids during the day, and a bar at night," he says. "This is a fun place."

Road Runner, 625 Hilton Boulevard, phone not available at press time. Probable hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. daily.

Acme Mercantile opens on Liberty

Nina Juergens aims to meet everyday needs

Salon Vertigo owner Nina Juergens, who works downtown and for many years lived there, too, is one of many Ann Arborites who miss downtown's more practical businesses. It's been one of downtown Ann Arbor's ironies that the residents of a splendid new \$500,000 townhouse can choose from scores of restaurants but have no place handy to pick up a roll of toilet paper or a lightbulb. "Schlenker's [Hardware] has closed, Lucky Drugs has closed, and practically the only useful stores left are Downtown Home & Garden and Sam's," Juergens says. "I love shopping, and I always thought it would be really great to have a store selling household items down there." So in November she was preparing to open Acme Mercantile, a "useful" store that stocks everything from office supplies to plus-size pants.

Juergens spent some time scouting out likely spaces before falling in love with the former Conservatory shop on West Liberty, in part because of its serendipitous history as a neighborhood market (built in 1890, the main floor originally housed the Ludwig Walz grocery). "I can't believe how lucky I am to have this space," she says. "I've had the dream of doing this for eight years now, and this is exactly the kind of space I imagined it being in."

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Acme Mercantile stocks everything from office supplies to plus-size pants.

J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

The shop's name has more than a little history of its own. According to my dictionary, *acme* means "the top" or "perfection." A century ago, business schools often used the term as a generic business name in textbook examples, and around 1900 Sears Roebuck christened one of its early in-house brands "Acme." Today most of us know the name Acme from the Warner Brothers Road Runner cartoons (see above), as the mail order business from which Wile E. Coyote bought everything from giant anvils to dynamite.

Ann Arbor's Acme doesn't have quite the inventory of the Warner Brothers version, but it does cover a lot of ground, from the mundane (those lightbulbs and toilet paper) to the unexpected, like a line of trendy maternity wear from San Francisco called Japanese Weekend, sleek stacking chairs in eye-popping red and orange, and a stylish electric coffeemaker from Bodum, better known for its press coffee pots. "We're going for things that are of really great design and an affordable price," Juergens explains. "You'll be able to find things you can't get anywhere else, but you'll also be able to get things like Chap Stick."

Juergens expects the store's inventory to evolve and expand over time. A few weeks before opening, she was unpacking men's watches, linen hankies, books, toasters, women's underwear, and organic cotton tampons and cotton balls. For now her apparel section is for women only, but she plans to add men's clothing soon. "We're hoping to create a sort of unisex atmosphere," she says, "where both men and women will be comfortable shopping."

The space has been brightened with pale orange walls and trim that form a nice backdrop for Acme's colorful inventory—"I really like bright colors, so things aren't going to just come in your basic black and white," Juergens says—and it's warmed by reproduction early-twentieth-century lighting fixtures. The 900-square-foot store is packed floor to ceiling with merchandise, so with much of the inventory there's only one item on display, with boxed merchandise in the basement for customers to take home.

Acme Mercantile, 111 West Liberty, 213-3722. Probable hours: Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., closed Sun.

A wine-tasting room from Tabor Hill

Pursuing the Michigan oenophile

A few doors west of Acme, Michigan winery **Tabor Hill** is opening Ann Arbor's first wine tasting room. One side will be a retail shop selling bottled wine, specialty foods, and wine-related accessories like corkscrews and coasters; the other will be a long stand-up bar where customers can work their way through all seventeen of Tabor Hill's wines, one taste at a time. If the company's three other tasting rooms around the state are any indication, most customers won't try all seventeen varieties—but those who do won't be reeling down the sidewalk afterward, emphasizes Tabor Hill general manager Paul Landeck. "Each pour is really just a splash for your taste buds," he says. "We're not a bar. We're not even going to be open late hours."

With thirty acres of vineyards in Buchanan, Michigan (just west of Niles), the twenty-five-year-old Tabor Hill is one of the few wineries in the state that not only grow their own grapes but also produce and bottle their own wine. Among the seventeen varieties are Cabernets, Merlots, Chardonnays, Pinots Noirs, and a demi-sec whose fans include Bob Hope, who ordered eighty cases of it to celebrate his eightieth birthday. (By the bottle, Tabor Hill wines normally fetch \$8 to \$30.) At the tasting room, customers start with the drier varieties and work their way through to the sweeter ones. You needn't sample every wine—you could, for example, skip something you're pretty sure you won't like—but Landeck urges customers to

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MARKETPLACE CHANGES *continued*

leave the sweet ones for last, since they tend to overwhelm the palate.

The tasting room is taking over the space briefly occupied by Liberty Street Trading Company. Because the building was recently rehabbed, Tabor Hill hasn't had to do much except put in the bar and some display shelving and, to meet city code, add a second rest room. "We're very excited about this spot," Landeck says. "We looked for this for a very long time."

Tabor Hill is owned by David and Linda Upton, whose son, Ben, is a printmaker

Tabor Hill is one of the few wineries in the state that not only grow their own grapes but also produce and bottle their own wine.

in Ann Arbor and will serve as an informal artist-in-residence at the tasting room. Upton will be creating his distinctive prints in a studio on the premises, and his work will be for sale in the tasting room shop.

Tabor Hill Winery Wine Tasting Room, 115 West Liberty, phone not available at press time. Probable hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

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At Briarwood, changes big and small

Including seasonal stores and Jake's successor

Even before Jacobson's had finished selling off its inventory, negotiations were under way for its replacement. By late September it was official: Iowa-based retail chain Von Maur will take over Jake's spot in Briarwood's south wing by fall 2003.

At first glance Von Maur and Jacobson's have much in common. Both have nineteenth-century Midwest roots; both began as family businesses—and, for that matter, Von Maur still is one, with no fewer than three Von Maurs at the helm. But Von Maur has navigated the shifting and increasingly crowded retail waters with more skill than Jacobson's did: while Jake's was dropping many customer-service perks and trying to appeal to younger shoppers, Von Maur was cementing its reputation with niceties like free gift wrap and delivery, an interest-free house credit card, thank-you notes from sales staff, and stores dotted with genteel antiques and comfortable seating areas. Von Maur's inventory, while definitely upscale, skews towards solid designer brands with

widespread appeal, like Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, and Kenneth Cole.

Shoppers looking for strokes should try to show up for opening day next fall. When Von Maur's store in Wichita, Kansas, opened this summer, customers were greeted with a long-stemmed rose and a chocolate bar.

Also new at Briarwood: two temporary tenants, **Day by Day Calendar** and the **Slipper Company**, both in the JCPenney wing and both scheduled to move out after the holidays. Day by Day took over Out-the-Door's spot; OTD, which sells urban fashions, has moved to the former Parade of Shoes location.

New kiosks and freestanding retail merchandising units (RMUs) for the holidays include a **Lego** kiosk near the new Von Maur location; **Ornamentations**, which sells museum-quality holiday ornaments in the JCPenney wing; and glassware retailer the **Glass Place**, also near JCPenney. There's a new kiosk tenant, too (kiosks are a variation of RMUs used for more permanent tenants): **Dakota Watch**, in the corridor leading to what will be Von Maur.

Finally, **X-Scream Motion**, a simulated roller coaster ride that seats two, opens for the holidays in the former Burger King spot next to Madstone Theater. "X-Scream is a different use for this center," says general manager Ida Hendrix, "but frankly, I am happy to get the barricade next to the Madstone removed."

Briefly Noted

Ann Arbor Cyclery owner Jon Kieft hadn't been looking to move his store, but when Ann Arbor Pet Supply went out of business just a few doors down, the opportunity to expand—and own his own building—proved irresistible. Not only will Ann Arbor Cyclery more than double its size, it'll save money, too. "My lease payments were actually higher per month than the mortgage on the new building," he says.

James Sullivan opened Ann Arbor Cyclery on the site of a neighborhood con-

who run their stores from an office, but you just have to be around it every day to understand what's out there and why people should take advantage of it," he says.

Like the automotive industry, bike manufacturers are continually upgrading, improving, and redesigning their products. Some changes are simply cosmetic, but many are technological innovations worth a trade-in. "Bikes shift smoother, the brakes work better, and they're lighter than even a few years ago," Kieft explains.

Many of the industry's recent advances address rider comfort. As the baby boom generation ages, even longtime riders are beginning to be tempted by indulgences like wider seats, suspensions, and a more upright riding position. For customers who still love biking but are tired of the aches and pains, Kieft often recommends a recumbent bicycle, which allows the rider to sit, supported by a back rest, and pedal with legs stretched out front. Kieft himself owns a mountain bike and a recumbent, so that he has his choice of mounts, depending on the terrain he's traveling and the group he's riding with.

When the new store opens around the end of November, it will boast a 2,500-square-foot showroom, with an additional 2,500 square feet of storage in the basement. The added space will allow Kieft to expand the store's inventory substantially, so he'll be able to show four or five bikes in a particular line instead of just two or three.

Ann Arbor Cyclery, 1200 Packard, 761-2749. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Sun.

The Ann Arbor Party Center on Jackson Road will have a new owner for the first time in its thirty-one years when longtime employee Jamey Snyder joins founders Don and Virginia Newell at the helm. Snyder is full of plans for the convenience store—even before becoming an official owner, he oversaw a major interior renovation and pumped up the store's wine and beer inventory—and expects to double the store's size by next year. He's also instituted a standard 11 p.m. closing time, seven days a week. "My theory is if you close at the same time every night, then nobody has to think about when you're open," he says.

The Newells opened the Party Center in 1971, right after the tiny shopping strip housing it was built. Strategically located where Huron splits into Jackson and Dexter avenues, the store caters to the residents of the Wildwood Park neighborhood to the north and the Virginia Park neighborhood to the south.

At one time the Party Center was as much a specialty shop as a convenience store, its deli case stocked with gourmet cheeses, hand-dipped chocolate truffles, and house-made delicacies, but eventually the deli case was replaced by a snack food display, and the store evolved into a more mainstream party store. Some of the more interesting items remained—the Party Center was the first store in town to carry the Old German's potato salad, for example, and carried it even before the Old German closed—but if you weren't a reg-


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"I know there are some bike shop owners who run their stores from an office," Jon Kieft says, "but you just have to be around it every day to understand what's out there and why people should take advantage of it."

venience store in 1968. It passed from Sullivan to James Grove, who hired Kieft in 1992 as his store manager before retiring and selling Kieft the business in 1998. Kieft, an avid mountain biker, says the fact that he rides what he sells makes an impression on his customers, who are mostly residents of neighboring Burns Park. "I know there are some bike shop owners



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MARKETPLACE CHANGES *continued*

ular customer, you probably wouldn't know to look for them. The store did a lot of business in beer, chips, cigarettes, and sundries.

In envisioning the Party Center of the future, Snyder is looking to the past—not just to the Party Center circa the 1970s and 1980s, but also to its predecessor, Yarmain's, which used to be in the middle of what is now the Party Center's parking lot. Owned by Harry Yarmain (whose son, Richard, is now the Newells' landlord), it was a neighborhood gro-

cery with a little bit of everything, from freshly cut meats to pantry staples. Over the past few years, Snyder has been working with the Newells to return the Party Center to its neighborhood-store status, widening the inventory to embrace both 79¢ shoelaces and \$279 bottles of thirty-year-old Scotch. An exploration of the store's newly widened aisles reveals plenty of chips and salsa, to be sure, but also toilet paper, cat litter, garbage bags, and microwavable entrees—the kinds of things people need at the last minute but aren't worth a trip to the supermarket. "These days about half of our business is general merchandise—cereal, bagels, coffee, milk," Snyder says. "And we probably sell more toilet paper than Kroger!"

Snyder and the Newells are negotiating with the landlord to expand into the space next door when its current tenant, an architect, moves after the first of the year. If the deal goes through, Snyder is planning to bring back the Party Center's deli, stocked not only with meats and cheeses but also with sandwiches, ready-to-heat entrees, cookies, and fresh bread. There'll be room, he hopes, for a few tables and chairs, where customers can have lunch or grab a hand-packed cone from the ice cream case he wants to install.

Eventually, when the Newells retire, Snyder will take over, but even then, he expects Don to be around at least part time. "I can order him around," he jokes. "Heck, I already do!"

The Ann Arbor Party Center, 1612 Jackson Avenue, 761-3615. Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-11 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 8 a.m.-11 p.m.

Sunflower Cafe owner Nicholas Raftis bought the popular **In Season Cafe** in Royal Oak this summer, and he's changing the name of his Ann Arbor store to take advantage of In Season's reputation. "In Season has gotten a lot of press over the years—Best Vegetarian Restaurant awards, stuff like that," says Thomas Lasher, who oversees the kitchens of both restaurants. "We thought an already familiar name might help the Ann Arbor location. It's been a hard market to break into."

Sunflower's slow start may have been

due in part to its Washington Street spot, a long-suffering storefront that has seen a run of short-lived businesses, including the ambitious Levy's ArtCafe, the Cyber Cafe—which never actually opened—and the high-concept, Beatles-themed Lonely Hearts Club. The predominantly vegetarian restaurant has also been fighting the misconception that it offers only macrobi-

otic fare. While macrobiotic entrees are indeed available, the newly renamed In Season also serves stir-fries, Mexican-influenced dishes like cilantro-pesto-filled enchiladas with green chili sauce, exotic pizzas like butternut squash with fennel and Gorgonzola,

and two nightly fish specials—which, Lasher jokes, offer "something for the boyfriend" of the mostly female vegetarians who dine there.

In Season Cafe, 211 East Washington, 302-7701. Tues.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Sun. brunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Closed Mon.

After Kathy and Mike Kenney moved from Chelsea to Ann Arbor this summer, it didn't take long for them to decide to move their store, too. "My son lives in Ann Arbor, my older daughter is going to school there, and now my sixteen-year-old daughter has started at Washtenaw Technical Middle College," Kathy explains. "We didn't want her to commute, so we moved."

Kathy and her sister, Patty Kinaschuk, opened **A Step Above** in 1999. Primarily a clothing boutique, it also sells handmade jewelry, winsome baby clothes in vintage fabrics, offbeat accessories, and scented soaps and lotions. Kathy bought her sister out in 2000 and brought husband Mike into the business, primarily so they could go on buying trips together. "We love to travel," she says.

The Ann Arbor version of the store, which will open in November on Detroit Street in the Market Place spot being vacated by hair salon Michael Susanne (which is moving to a bigger space next door), will carry much the same inventory, with a few concessions to the more established clothing boutiques in the area. New clothing lines will include comfortable, one-size-fits-all cotton sweaters by BKG, outfits from Canadian clothing designer Lynn Cantin, and Urban Outfitters brand clothes that the national retailer wholesales to independent shops.

Kathy says she's excited about the move, but she's going to miss her sunny second-floor shop, and she's going to miss the small-town atmosphere. "We love Chelsea," she says. "Everybody in town has been really nice about us moving and says they'll come see us in Ann Arbor."

A Step Above, 303 Detroit Street, phone not available at press time. Probable hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., closed Sun.

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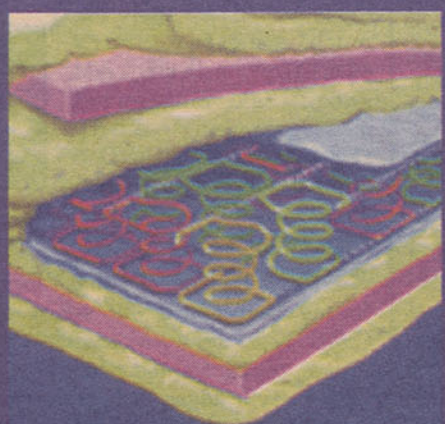


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Vol: 5 no. 12

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Zing news nibbles

Inc Magazine Gets the Zingerman's Experience!

The Times has learned that Inc magazine is covering Zingerman's in its December 2002 issue. ZingTrain Partner Stas' Kazmierski was overheard saying: "Writer Bo Burlingham came to the Zingerman's Experience Seminar in the fall. He was so intrigued by the inside scoop on how Zingerman's does business, he decided to delve into the story more." To have your own Zingerman's Experience, you can pick up the magazine in December, or sign up for the seminar by logging onto zingtrain.com to find out about the next Zingerman's Experience on January 27-28.

New York Times Champions Cream Cheese

In October, The New York Times cheered on Zingerman's Creamery Cream Cheese. Food writer Melissa Clark shared, "...I have found something better, unlike any cream cheese I'd tasted before. It's soft, creamy and dense, but with a pronounced cheesey, almost chèvre-like tang that keeps the voluptuous texture in check." For more details and her cheesecake recipe, call the Deli's cheese virtuoso Joanna Brook at (734) 663-3354.

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brownie club mails magical results!

Zingerman's Magic Brownies have been making waves with an assortment for chocolate lovers all over North America. How are these brownies escaping the environs of the Ann Arbor area? Times sleuths say that the leak seems to be coming from the Zingerman's Mail Order World Headquarters where staff are preparing to send thousands of them out to chocolate-loving gift recipients over the holidays. Testimonials have been coming in from writers 'round the country and here in town. Rob Pasick, Ann Arbor-based author of "Conversations with My Old Dog," reported that, "The Double Magic are the best brownies ever, but be careful, 'cause eating them will make you feel so good, you'll feel like you've committed a sin." Joan Nathan, author of



America's chocolate lovers gleefully grab their mailboxes in hopes of a Zingerman's Brownie Club gift.

"Jewish Cooking in America," was overheard at a recent culinary conference singing the praises of these self-same chocolate treats. Sources inside Zingerman's have verified that Magic

Brownies were recently shipped to U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan. The soldiers said they got their package in five days, and the "Magic Brownies" were gone in five minutes!"

The big brownie hubbub includes the latest additions to the Bakehouse Magic Brownie line-up: Java Brownies, which are made with freshly ground Zingerman's coffee; and Double Magic Brownies made with Valrhona's exceptionally dark French Caraque chocolate blended into the already magical brownie batter. In addition, many brownie addicts are still agog about last year's introduction of the Buenos Aires brownies made with Argentine Dulce de Leche caramel cream. Nationally recognized brownie authority, Gary LeBlanc, still swears by the original Magic Brownies: "They're still the best brownies in the world!" To get a copy of Zingerman's Special Holiday Mail Order Catalog call 888-636-8162 or go to www.zingermans.com.

bakehouse caught pulling full-flavored pizza from ovens

The Times wire has been receiving reports of pizza sightings at Zingerman's Bakehouse. To confirm the allegations, the Times Pizza Police swooped down on the possible offender and discovered the sightings were real. "That's right," said the Bakehouse's own pizza proprietress,

Mary Kalinowski, "we've been bakin' these Sicilian-inspired, super thin, round marvels for about a month now." Made with the most flavorful ingredients, from the Creamery's fresh, handmade mozzarella and the season's best artichokes, to savory seafood and more, the Bakehouse has created a sleeper hit.

However, these aren't your ordinary pizzas. They're very thin, with a little bit of housemade sauce (either Sicilian tomato or tomato-fennel), topped with the lightest touch of toppings. Long-time pizza fan Leah Trulik says, "I was never a thin-crust pizza fan, but now I am. This pizza is filled full of so many traditional flavors, each bite is a treat!" Made twice a day, they're sold by the slice or whole, with a choice of a cheese, meat, seafood or funky-style. Available Monday through Saturday, only at the Bakehouse Bakeshop at 3711 Plaza Drive. To find out what they're pullin' out of their ovens today, give 'em a ring at (734) 761-2095.



Pizza fans joyfully discover the Bakehouse's flavorful creation.

a 50 year first: french salami sent stateside!

Times correspondents have learned that for the first time in probably half a century, real French-made salami can be found in the U.S. Crafted to the exacting specifications of Jean Plasse, renowned Lyonnaise charcutier (the father of Chantal Plasse, who sources and matures Zingerman's farmhouse French cheese), the salamis are 100 percent pure pork and have only 16 percent fat. They are also mold-ripened for over three months so that the flavor can properly mature and develop. "The taste is much meatier, very complex, subtle and sweet," said Zingerman's meat maven, Andy Hanna. Stop by the Deli and ask for a taste today.



corned beef tops taste in new york

The Times has learned that Zingerman's own corned beef edged out some of New York City's best delis (including Carnegie and Stage) to be named the best corned beef in the city! Judges included some of the food world's brightest and best, from food writer Jefferey Steingarten to chef Mario Batali. Congratulations to Zingerman's! To try this winner for yourself, stop by the Deli today.

surrender to stollen season!

This traditional German holiday cake is available at the Deli, Bakehouse & Mail Order from December 1-31st only!



happy holidays to all!

Zingerman's is closed the 25th.
See ya on the 26th!

Jack's Hardware founders Jack and Barb Travis have retired after twenty-two years and have sold the store to their son Jon and son-in-law and longtime employee Marty Nyrkkanen. Nyrkkanen, who has worked for the Traveses for the last sixteen years, says that he and Jon intend to keep things more or less as they've always been, and that the store's marquee message out front pretty much sums things up: "Nothing's really changed. Same family, same mess."

Jack's originally opened in Ypsilanti and moved to 2111 Packard before settling in its current spot at 740 Packard in 1997. With twelve parking spaces out front and another five in back, the campus location is convenient for the apartment managers who make up the backbone of the store's business and for the Burns Park area home owners and students who frequent it on evenings and weekends. It's also quite a bit cheaper than its last spot. "Even today, the mortgage on the building is fifteen hundred dollars a month cheaper than our rent was back then," Nyrkkanen says.

Several Jack's staffers have been there over fifteen years, a plus for customers who come in seeking help with their home improvement projects. "Most of my customers come here for that reason," Nyrkkanen says. "They can come here, they can pick up the item, and they can be home in ten minutes. Lowe's is twenty minutes out, an hour in the store and twenty minutes back, and then they're not even sure they got the right item."

The coin laundry next door to the hardware store is also Marty and Jon's, but the new hot dog business, JT's Dawg House, still belongs to Jon and his dad.

Jack's Hardware, 740 Packard, 995-0078. Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Over the years, so many of Big George's customers came into the west-side appliance store and asked about gas grills that owners Mark Bishar and his family felt perfectly justified in opening **Big George's Home and Patio** across the street. The only problem was that customers were still coming into the original store to find grills, even with the new place right across the way. "People would walk into our main store and ask where our grills and patios were, and we'd have to send them across the street," says Mark Bishar, whose dad, Bud, bought Big George's from founder George Simon in 1984. "And it's not an easy intersection to cross, either by car or on foot."

This fall the Bishars finally decided to stop fighting what was clearly a losing battle. They've moved the home and patio inventory into the original Big George's, combining two stores into one.

Even though the home and patio store stocked an extensive selection of gas grills, patio furniture, and fireplace tools and accessories, the original store was easily able to accommodate them, thanks to an aggressive cleaning. "We've been throwing out junk and cleaning up for

months," Bishar says. "This building's been here since nineteen fifty-nine, so there was a lot of accumulation."

Not only was there plenty of room for the new inventory, there's even some space left over to show some of the indoor furniture many patio furniture manufacturers offer. Most of it is intended for three-season areas like sunrooms or enclosed porches, but some of it, according to Bishar, would be quite at home in a casual living room.

"This building's been here since nineteen fifty-nine," Mark Bishar says, "so there was a lot of accumulation."

In a market where most of the other independents have succumbed to big chain competition from Sears, Best Buy, Lowe's, and Home Depot, Big George's looks surprisingly healthy. "I would be lying to say they're not affecting us, but we really do emphasize customer service, and that helps us in many ways," Bishar says. "If those places don't take care of their customers, the customers find the places that will."

Big George's Home Appliance Mart, 2919 West Stadium, 669-9500. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m.

Closings

Modern Skate & Surf Shop on Washtenaw has closed, and owners George and Linda Leichtweis have moved its inventory to a new store in Novi, conveniently located next to a 50,000-square-foot skate park. As in Ann Arbor, the Novi location sells skateboards, in-line skates, surfboards, snowboards, wakeboards, and all the accessories necessary to use them safely.

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, the *Changes* column highlighted sixteen new shops and restaurants. Incredibly, ten of them have survived the decade, including **Mitch's Place**, upstairs on South University and South Forest; **Seoul Corner**, which replaced another Korean restaurant called Hur's at William and Thompson; big chain smorgasbord **Old Country Buffet**, at Cranbrook Shopping Center; the **Busch's Valu Land** at Plymouth-Green Shopping Center; **China Merchandise** at Plymouth Road Mall; **Arbor Vacuum** on Carpenter Road; **Mir's Oriental Rugs** on Main Street; and **Hyundai of Ann Arbor** on Jackson Road. **Whole Foods Market** opened ten years ago at Lamp Post Plaza; next year it will move to a new and greatly expanded location at Huron Village. Finally, there's still a sandwich shop at Fifth and Liberty, where **Quizno's** opened in 1992, but it's now a Middle Eastern deli called **Lazeeza**.

The casualties are **Great Lakes Sports** on South University; doll maker Marian

Draugalis's **Draugalis Studio** on West Huron; the **Espresso Royale** location at Packard and State; a dollar store called **Dollar\$Buster** in South University's Galleria; an overstock liquidator called **What's Next?!** on Fourth Avenue; and Jim Glahn's poster and gift shop, **Art Rage**, on East Liberty.

December 1992 survival rate: 63 percent

Five years ago this month, *Marketplace Changes* reported six business openings. Two of those businesses didn't make it to their fifth anniversaries: Kerrytown coffee shop **Sweet Spot**, which Lily's Garden owners Lily and Tim Kittle ran briefly next to their flower shop, and **B1**, an exuberant but short-lived housewares store at Briarwood.

Maggie's Organics is still selling the natural-fiber socks, hair scrunchies, and other cozy accessories it manufactures, but the ecofriendly company has moved both its offices and retail showroom to a new spot on Ypsilanti's Cross Street. The other survivors are **Electronics Boutique** at Briarwood, South University used-music shop **Record Exchange**, and the tire shop on Washtenaw near Arborland, which started life as **National Tire & Battery (NTB)** but is now under new ownership as **Belle Tire**.

December 1997 survival rate: 67 percent

One year ago this month, *Marketplace Changes* featured twelve new businesses. During the past twelve months, only one of them has closed: **City Bakery & Cafe II** in the Hamilton Square minimall on North University. **Sushi.come**, another Hamilton Square tenant that opened at about the same time across the hall, not only survives but has expanded into the bakery's old spot.

Imported clothing shop **Mathilde's Imports**, on Detroit Street, and **Twiggy Boutique**, on East Liberty, continue to stretch Ann Arbor's fashion envelope, as does Briarwood retailer **Out-the-Door**, which specializes in urban designer wear. The popular **OTD**, as it's more commonly known, moved from its original spot to a new space at the other end of the mall this fall. Five other Briarwood shops are also celebrating their first anniversaries: fitness retailer **Just Sports**; women's wear shop **Chico's**; **Journeys**, specializing in teen footwear; the **Discovery Channel Store**; and **Soup's On Cafe**, which as of this writing has been listed for sale for some time. The other survivors are **Main Street Coney & Grill** and West Stadium's **Happy Wok**.

December 2001 survival rate: 92 percent

Got a retail or restaurant change? Leave voice mail at 769-3175, extension 364, or send e-mail to LMcReynolds@comcast.net.

—Laura McReynolds



Monahan's, always in SEASON!

Whatever your tradition, we'll help you celebrate! Whole poached salmon, smoked fish, oysters (whole and shucked), herring, lutefisk, eel, ground kosher fish, **SHRIMP COCKTAIL**, party platters and the most beautiful array of fresh fish in the area.

Party with the best!

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hand cleaned and cooked on site
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- **salmon roe**
- **smoked fish**
incredible selection
- **our own gravlax**
- **gift certificates, t-shirts, chowder mugs**
and other fine gifts

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For singles who use the Personal Call voice-mail system, additional lines are \$7 each. Ads that indicate a preference for letters, or those under the "General" heading, cost \$7 per line for the entire ad.

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(734) 769-3175

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

Personals Key	
A=Asian	L=Letters
B=Black	LTR=Long Term Relationship
C=Christian	M=Male
D=Divorced	ND=Nondrinker
F=Female	NS=Nonsmoker
G=Gay	☎=Phone Calls
H=Hispanic	P=Professional
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate	S=Single
ISO=In Search Of	W=White
J=Jewish	

women seeking men

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226-8978

18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min.

Petite, SWPF, attractive blonde enjoys dancing, music, ISO educated WM (especially firemen, law enforcement, etc.) for possible LTR. Also retired professional. ☎4936

Whole Foods, Gallup Park, Liberty Woods or any, Power Center, breakfast at Angelo's, Bally's, friends first, prefers healthy, S/DPM, degreed, NS, financially secure, 6'+, 35-45. Letters and photos only. 4974

Want to go to Vermont over Christmas? Sleigh bells, quaint villages all aglow. Fireside chats and more await a special SWPM. Must be educated, tall, and kind. ☎4977

NY'er in absentia. SBF, slim, attractive, de rigueur, not taking well to rooms wherein I come and go, hearing only of Michel Foucault. If you like the extraordinary, to exercise your mind as well as body, perhaps we can make a pair. Do I and do you dare? ☎4991

LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

Every Friday at 8:35 a.m. on Kool 107 FM, listen for the Personals Ads of the Week from Kool 107's Lucy Ann Lance and the Ann Arbor Observer's Melanie Ballance.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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Ann Arbor's Kool 107

Ann Arbor Observer

Sexy, classy, very attractive Russian lady, 49, 5'7", proportional weight, brown eyes/hair, educated, loyal, compassionate, with wide circle of interests is looking for an independent, professional, financially/emotionally secure M, who's family oriented, caring, and responsible, 5'10"+, around the same age, for long-term relationship or possibly more. ☎4990

Enjoy Morrison and Mozart, Puzo and Poe, long walks and weekend getaways? Prefer good film over bar scene? Educated, SWPF, 39, seeks SM for conversation and ? ☎4973

If you are looking for an attractive, caring woman to share life with, don't miss this opportunity. Russian former physician, 56, 5'2", 135 lbs. is waiting for you. ☎4970

SPF, 47, cute ISO new-age guy, old-fashioned ethics, who does right thing even if no one's there. Smart, open heart/mind, kind, witty, loving. ☎4972

Attractive, slim, tall widow looking for retired man, 65-70, NS, who likes walking, dancing, TV, theater, quiet times, dining out, and is fun to be with. Letters, please. 4969

Like walking, traveling, having fun? Attractive, caring, educated, DWPF, 58, NS, ISO honest, caring, educated, fun-loving, widowed/DWPM, 55-62, for companionship/LTR. ☎4949

Life lover, pretty, SJF, 40ish, 125 lbs., 5'7", cheerful, degreed, playful, enjoys nature, music, singing, yoga, healthy food prep, country living. ISO spiritual man, religion open, kind, centered, happy, honest, best friend/lifetime partner. ☎4893

Attractive, sweet, sincere, DWPF, 41, degreed, 5'6", 130 lbs., single mom. Seeks SPM, NS/ND, 35-50, also educated and degreed, who loves children, is warm, intelligent, and physically fit. Kids are a plus. ☎4805

The best gifts aren't found under the tree ... but in the heart.

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Ann Arbor Observer

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On-line: www.arborweb.com
To respond to a Personals ad by phone, call (900) 226-8978.

personals

38 years old, 5'8", 142 lbs., brown hair and eyes. I am looking for a creative, hard-working, intelligent, sexy, handsome man (just kidding!!) to be my sunshine. **#4971**

European, multilingual woman, 45, very beautiful brunette, enjoys dancing. Excellent cook. ISO stable, honest, educated, SWM, 45-65, for long-term relationship. **#4979**

Loving, honest, optimistic, SWF seeks same in a man age 40-60. Independent businesswoman enjoys gardening, golfing, skiing, swimming, boating, and movies. **#4980**

I'm a petite lady, 5'2", 125 lbs. Have lots of friends but lonely for someone special. Would like to hear all about you. Meet me for lunch or coffee. **#4981**

48, 5'2", 100 lbs., blonde, blue eyes. Financially secure, no dependents at home and looking for the same. ISO fun-loving man with great sense of humor who's kind and honest. **#4989**

Brighten my days, warm my nights. If you're 54-67, intelligent, active, and enjoy travel. Seeking fun, sharing, caring. **#4975**

Sincere, caring, DWPF, 46, looking for gentle sir to spend time with. Enjoys theater, movies, nature walks. Mother of 2. **#4992**

Looking for a Mac man: creative, stable, scruffily elegant, open-coded, spell-checked liberal who loves to run older software, for this Mac woman: former babe, 45-year-old artist/writer rebel who smokes, whose firmware isn't so firm, but with whom you can still have a blast. **#4976**

SWF, 49, 5'10", 140 lbs., fresh from L.A., scriptwriter, music lover, original, fun loving, athletic, brainy, and caring. ISO warm, humorous, smart M. Kids a+. **#4996**

DWPF, 53, 5'7", fit, affectionate, adventurous, likes travel, photography. Wants to share nature and the arts with kind, playful, animal-loving, NS, PM, 50-60. ISO LTR. **#4983**

SWF ISO stray cat who needs a good home. I am intelligent, attractive, fun, honest, professional, youthful 55. ISO single gentleman with similar and/or complementary traits, 48-62, ready for love and companionship. **#4994**

SPF, 34, ISO compassionate, spiritual man, 28-42. I love reading, listening to music. Looking for someone who is politically progressive and open to the larger world ideas. **#4982**

men seeking women

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226-8978

18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min.
The knight of the cross of parallel lines, SWM, ISO witty, SWF, 45-55. **#4978**

Laughter is my elixir. Not your average 55-year-old guy. Creative, smart, loving, erotic, well-groomed, self-employed, ex-NY'er. **#4987**

SWM, 49, tall, European, seeks friendship with SF for fine dining and movies at the Michigan. **#4988**

Handsome Buddhist... looking for myself! Would like some enjoyable company along the way. **#4993**

Bright, bearded, boyish WP, 55, enjoys foreign film, food, and travel; books, plays, concerts, walks, talks, hugs, cats. ISO F, 35-55. Open-minded about kids. **#4920**

SWM, 41, great job, responsible, educated, very friendly and loving, tall and trim. ISO animal-loving, youthful female with depth. **#4918**

37-year-old guy with graduate education seeks an artistic or unconventional or sincere woman. Your formal education level is not important to me. **#4960**

Recently retired DWM, 58, 5'10½", 185 lbs., brown/brown. Enjoys walks, golf, bikes, movies, bridge, Scrabble, and good conversation. ISO sweet, kind, affectionate lady, 40-63, for friendship and a possible LTR. **#4951**

SWM, fit, slim, intelligent, educated, honest, accommodating. Interests: books, movies, music, travel. ISO similar SWF, intelligent, compatible, attractive, 40s-50s. **#2918**

SWM, retired professional, 5'10", 200 lbs., varied interests, living alone in country estate. Seeks SWF, 5'2"-5'4", slim to medium build, 50ish, with no dependents or pets, for companionship, possible live-in. Letter with photo, please. **#4961**

Fit, 5'11", SWPM, 45, who can be Hugh Grant posh as well as Indiana Jones athletic seeks SWPF to enjoy walks, talks, music, and weekly films! **#4938**

DWM, 55, retired, seeks NS active lady, friends first, who likes chocolate, contra dancing, travel, nature, humor, and conversation for LTR. **#4943**

DWM, 50, 5'9", 150 lbs., no children. PhD scientist/farmer in conservation/ecology. ISO woman scientist for rural life, international travel, romance. **#4486**

Educated, fit, DWPM loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO classy, attractive woman, 39-46. **#3031**

Exceptionally young looking 60ish WPM, 6'4", eye-catching, fit, bright, energetic, spontaneous. Seeks one matching, slender, SWF who likes to go out and have fun. **#4995**

Semiretired lawyer needs a traveling companion and help goofing off. **#4998**

Kind, decent, exciting, easygoing, and fun loving! SWM enjoys the arts, scuba diving, reading, live comedy, skiing, skating, bike and horseback riding, and much more! Seeks kind, communicative, attractive SF for friendship and/or LTR. Will answer all replies. **#4962**

SBM, 38, college educated, easygoing and nice, loves kids, employed. ISO SF, 20-38, for possible LTR. **#4954**

women seeking women

PERSONAL CALL
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men seeking men

PERSONAL CALL
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friendships

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general personals

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Can you find the fake display ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate from one of our advertisers. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: Fake Ad, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769-3375; e-mail: penny@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

21-39 year olds looking to meet new people in the Ann Arbor area? The Ann Arbor Jaycees are for you. We offer something for everyone, the chance to meet new people, have fun while helping the community, improve leadership skills along the way, and much more. Come check us out at our membership meetings the first Thursday of each month or go to www.a2jaycees.org for our calendar of events with dates and locations, or call 913-9629.

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"You don't have to ski to be a member!" The AASC offers year-round social and sports activities for singles and couples 21/over from A2 and surrounding communities. Established organization averaging 700 members! Upcoming events include: 12/5 General Meeting/Dance at Cobblestone Farm; 12/6 Holiday "Gala" Extravaganza Dinner/Dance at Weller's Carriage House; 12/19 General Meeting at Cobblestone Farm. See our website for upcoming Alpine and Nordic Ski Trips. For more info on events, including sign-up procedures, consult the Club Hotline, (734) 761-3419 or www.a2skiclub.org.

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- ☐ You're a caroler and need an accompanist.
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- ☐ You're a Santa and need a Mrs. Claus.
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- ☐ It's FREE!*

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For information on placing a Personals ad, see page 118 or call 734-769-3175

To respond to a Personals ad or browse Personals by phone, call 1-900-226-8978 (\$1.95/minute)

* First four lines are free for singles seeking relationships. \$7.00 each additional line. Refer to ad and guidelines on page 118.

Congratulations!

PERSONALS "AD OF THE MONTH"

Personals ads in the Ann Arbor Observer are eligible for our monthly contest. The winner, chosen for creativity and originality, will receive certificates for *Dinner for Two at The Earle and Coffee and Dessert for Two at Espresso Royale Caffe.*

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Women Seeking Men

Looking for a Mac man: creative, stable, scruffily elegant, open-coded, spell-checked liberal who loves to run older software, for this Mac woman: former babe, 45-year-old artist/writer rebel who smokes, whose firmware isn't so firm, but with whom you can still have a blast. **#4976**

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entertainment

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lessons & workshops

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For business or travel.
Rapid, all levels. 485-3842.

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ALL AGES, ALL LEVELS

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All levels and ages. 665-5346.

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Voice Lessons for nonsingers and singers. All ages, all music types, personal expression focus. Very experienced teacher, certified music therapist, award-winning vocalist. Kathleen Moore, (734) 668-8146.

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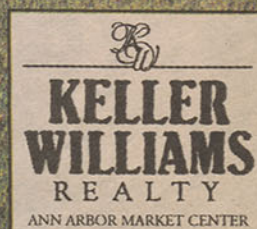
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Residential and Commercial Properties
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On the Cover: Gorgeous landscaping and mature trees surround this beautiful home in Ann Arbor's Foxfire subdivision. Its 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, family room with brick fireplace, and finished walkout basement with daylight windows add up to an exceptional house. \$317,900. Keller Williams Realty. (734) 761-3060.

Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie

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Ann Arbor Observer.....126, 128, 135
BRG Custom Homes.....136
John & Jayne Berkaw.....135
Martin Bouma.....127
Elizabeth Brien.....131
Matt Dejanovich—Real Estate One.....130
Fieldstone Village Condominium.....131
Georgetown Condominiums.....131
Debi Gould.....126
Huron Valley Financial Services.....132
Landau Custom Homes.....131
Real Estate One.....129
Charles Reinhart Company Realtors.....126
RE/MAX Community Associates.....135
Republic Bank.....134
Real Estate Map.....133

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Editor

John Hilton

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Penny Schreiber

Copy Editor

Paul R. Schwankl

Assistant Editor

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Creative Director

Holly Jordana Kyman

Production Coordinator

Ann Yoskovich

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Design & Production

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Advertising Representatives

Julie Cole • Vikki Enos • Cindy Masini
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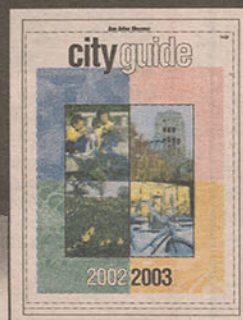
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A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY in Northeast Ann Arbor! Wonderful custom home on a private 2-acre site, overlooking the Audubon Nature Preserve, with a premium finish! Call **Roger Higgins** at 662-8600. (WA229661)



PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY IN THE COUNTRY. Custom-built, quality accentuated! You'll never want to leave this 1st floor master suite! Located adjacent to the Pinckney recreation area. Finished Walkout. Landscaping includes a man made babbling brook! \$559,000. Call **Janice Heidtman** at 662-8600. (ST228978)



CUSTOM HOME ON WATER! 7+ acres. Home is adjacent to Waterloo Preserve and has frontage. Walkout first floor master and laundry room. Gourmet kitchen with walk-in pantry. Priced at \$469,000. Call **Janice Heidtman** at 475-3384 or 662-8600. (ME229314)



MAGNIFICENT TUDOR HOME – Built by Landau. 3,907 sq. ft. in Northeast Ann Arbor. Wooded lot with privacy. Walking distance to King Elementary. Fabulous rooms with views of courtyard. Two-story foyer, light neutral decor, custom feature, 4 bedrooms and huge study. \$599,000. Call **Nancy Harrison** at 320-2211 or 662-8600. (TR228753)



FANTASTIC 10-ACRE estate setting in Saline Schools. A "Michigan Log Home." All cedar construction with approx. 4,800 sq. ft. of finished space. Four bedrooms, 3.5 baths, great sized garage. Spectacular stone fireplace. Finished entertaining, studio, and theater area. One-of-a-kind. \$689,000. Call **Tim Harrison** at 320-2211 or 662-8600. (JU221305)



EXCELLENT LOCATION! First floor master suite, Jacuzzi garden tub, dual sink. Kitchen with center island and eating area. French door and bay window in study, professionally finished basement with ? bath, full wet bar and berber carpet. Landscaping, sprinkler system and more! \$375,000. Call **Phet Young** at 476-0745 or 662-8600. (ID229101)



STONEBRIDGE GOLFING COMM. – 3,200 sq. ft. contemporary on the 5th fairway. First floor master and den, great room, wonderful floor plan, White Bay kitchen with island and eating area, finished lower level with theater room. Home office, 3-car garage, 3 decks and landscaping. \$539,900. Call **John Romagnoli** at 368-0300 or 662-8600. (ST229107)



LAKE FOREST Wexford built home with 2,620 sq. ft., 2-story entry, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths built in 1995. Great court location backing up to beautiful open space. Hilly views of rolling land. Quiet setting. Attached two-car garage and custom deck. Well maintained. Priced at \$365,000. Call **Nancy Harrison** at 320-2211 or 662-8600. (NO229042)



POLO FIELDS – Golf, tennis, swimming, fine dining and open walking. Spaces are available here plus you can have immediate occupancy of this four bedroom home. First floor master suite, great room with grand fireplace, spacious kitchen. \$499,900. Call **Barbara Gaines** at 800-923-3245 or 662-8600. (GU227561)



CONTEMPORARY 1993 – Three-bedroom ranch in Southeast Ann Arbor. Maintenance-free, private. Full basement, yard with deck, great starter home in move-in condition. Ann Arbor Schools. Priced at \$184,900. Call **Debby Combs-James** at 800-717-8585 or 810-227-5005. (22081086)



ORCHARD HILLS updated classical colonial with beautiful fieldstone and brick exterior. Quiet court location. Light and neutral décor with hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen and bathrooms. Finished rec room, attached 2-car garage. Close to Sugar Bush Park & Thurston Nature Center. \$315,000. Call **Nancy Harrison** at 320-2211 or 662-8600. (AN229248)



DELUXE MODEL HOME "Biltmore" with beautiful features – 4 bedrooms, luxury bathroom, gourmet kitchen, granite kitchen countertops, craft room, and screened porch. Landscaped with privacy in backyard. Finished lower level. Three-car garage. \$750,000. Call **Timothy Harrison** at 320-2212 or 662-8600. (AR227519)



MOVE IN – 3 large bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1,858 sq. ft., family room and living room. Beautiful Michigan stone gas fireplace. Basement finished with wet bar, simulated brick walls, and drop ceiling. Lovely family neighborhood close to new Kroger's store and freeway. \$199,900. Call **Lee Russell** at 668-1965 or 662-8600 ext. 426. (GL229612)



STONEBRIDGE GOLFING COMM. Contemporary with view of 6th green, 1st floor master, loads of upgrades, landscaping, 3-car side-entry garage, finished view out lower level with game room, gourmet White Bay kitchen with island, nook and 2-way fireplace in great room, screen porch and large deck. \$545,900. Call **John Romagnoli** at 368-0300 or 662-8600. (ST227062)



STYLISH modified two-bedroom, two-bath, and 1.5-story home. Vaulted ceilings, two bay windows. Finished basement. Fenced yard with beautiful full trees bordering the back perimeter. Priced at \$185,900. Call **Lee Russell** at 662-800. (TU229611)



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GLENBOROUGH. Harris Homes presents this outstanding 4-bedroom, 3-bath home on a spectacular walkout site in Glenborough. Perfect traditional design with 2-story foyer, den, family room with 11' ceiling, custom kitchen with granite and prof. appliances, and dream master suite. \$799,180. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEWPORT CREEK—Harris Homes latest offering in Ann Arbor's premier custom home community. Stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath traditional home on lot backing to Newport Creek. Highest level finishes included with custom cabinets, granite counter tops, marble floors, and extensive moldings. \$775,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE. Custom built 4 bedroom, 4 bath home on a gorgeous wooded lot backing to common area. Upgrades throughout with spacious deck and patio, 4-car garage, Corian kitchen, tons of windows, luxury master suite, and finished basement. \$645,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – SALINE - The model home for Bayberry Construction in The Arboretum is now available. Spectacular professionally decorated 4-bedroom, 2½-bath, colonial features custom maple kitchen with Corian counters, 2-story foyer, and expansive master suite with sitting area. \$542,500 Call Matt Dejanovich 476-7100 (AM-229228)



SALINE—Spectacular home under construction in the Arboretum by Bayberry. This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home is real winner with 2-story great room, first-floor master suite, 3-car garage, view out basement, and loaded with quality features. \$540,206. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100. (AM-222494)



SALINE—Gorgeous 3,500-sq.-ft., 4-bedroom, 3½-bath new construction in Sandpiper Cove with only the best finishes. Great design featuring 2-story foyer and family room, den, cherry kitchen, enormous master suite, and gorgeous acre lot. \$539,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE. Gorgeous custom-built 5-bedroom, 3½-bath on a quiet acre plus cul-de-sac lot. Spectacular and loaded with amenities, great kitchen, and hearth room. Large master suite, finished third floor with bonus room, finished walkout basement, incredible home electronics, and pool. \$529,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – STOCKBRIDGE – Stunning custom-built home is on six gorgeous acres with trees and pond. Gracious period reproduction with all brick exterior, wide oak plank floors, "walk-in" fireplace, Cherry kitchen, Hartland stove, huge master suite, screened porch, and finished walkout basement. \$525,000 Call Matt Dejanovich 476-7100.



SALINE—Bayberry Construction is now the builder of The Arboretum. This home features 4 bedroom, 2½ bath with 2-story foyer, study, maple kitchen with Corian counters open to family room with 10' ceiling, huge master suite with sitting area, and 3-car garage. Landscaping included. \$483,166. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100. (216031)



SALINE—Bayberry Construction presents their most popular floorplan in Sha Estates. This design features 2-story foyer, den, floor plan, open kitchen with maple cabinets, large family room, oversized master suite with sitting area, 3-car garage, and walkout basement. Great value. \$481,927. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100. (VI-219034)



YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP. Perfect 5 bedroom 3½ bath country estate is highlighted by gorgeous views from two decks looking onto backyard with full basketball court. Interior is super sharp with great kitchen open to family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$469,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100. (AP-226532)



STONEBRIDGE. Gorgeous setting on the #5 green highlights this 4-bedroom, 2½-bath, custom-built home. Quality features inside and out with stunning curb appeal, soaring great room ceiling, den, maple kitchen with stainless steel appliances, spacious first-floor master suite, and huge deck overlooking the course. \$449,500 Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE – Gorgeous former model home with panoramic views of the #3 hole at Stonebridge. This detached 3 bedroom, 2½ bath condo w/expansive deck with hot tub, screened porch, cherry kitchen, great room, and first floor master suite. \$439,900 Call Matt Dejanovich 476-7100 (ST-229328)



NE ANN ARBOR. Hard-to-find custom ranch on 3.9 wooded acres on a peaceful country road, just minutes from town. Great design with central atrium patio, hickory kitchen with Corian countertops, luxury master suite, and vaulted ceilings throughout. \$399,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



GRASS LAKE—This is the first offering in Sandhill Estates, Grass Lake's newest sub. Great design featuring first-floor master suite, 2-story great room, 3-car garage, on a spacious half-acre lot. Great upgraded with white kitchen, hardwood floors, crown molding, and more. \$369,900. Two additional homes available \$262,169 and \$283,677. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – SALINE – This charming pre-1900 farmhouse on 3 peaceful acres has been completely updated. Property features finished pole barn set up for home office, studio, or workshop with heat and AC. Home hardwood floors, oversized trim, screened porch, and remodeled kitchen. \$329,900 Call Matt Dejanovich. (MA-229206)



NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE—Hard to find 2 bedroom, 3 bath Ranch condo with pond view in Stonebridge. Great amenities throughout with oak kitchen, 10' ceiling in great room, finished basement, luxury bath, and neutral décor. \$287,900 Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SANDHILL ESTATES. New construction in Grass Lake's newest sub. You will love this 4 bedroom, 2½ bath colonial floor plan featuring 3-car garage, walkout basement, maple cabinets, open kitchen to family room, and many upgrades. \$283,677. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100. (Sa-215628)



LINCOLN SCHOOLS. This 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home with unique second-floor loft is as neat and clean as you will find. Super design features living room with vaulted ceiling. \$215,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100. (MI-226403)



SALINE. Enjoy old-world charm in this updated 3-bedroom, 1½-bath, 2-story just blocks from downtown Saline. All the original woodwork is preserved with oak hardwood floors, formal dining room, study, 2½-car garage, and lots of windows. \$209,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

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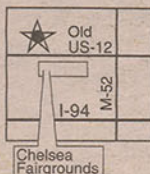
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825 Glazier, Chelsea
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The Preserve, Dexter
Beautiful homes built by: Beechwood Building & Development, Germain Building Co., David C. Prentice & Co., Sierra Homes & Vita Homes, Ltd. Priced \$589,900 to \$749,000.



1166 Blue Heron, Dexter
Custom home on 10+ acres. Gourmet kitchen with Viking & granite, indoor pool, 4-season room, heated gar & outbuilding. Access to Wildwood Lake. \$1,250,000. #226612



5630 Meadowlane, Ann Arbor
Custom home by Elan Design in Meadowland. 6700+sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths, 1st floor study, state of the art kitchen, finished lower level, landscaped. \$1,150,000. #223526



880 Ridge, Chelsea
Fabulous brick one story home under construction by Salliotte Custom Homes. Custom finishes, walkout lower level. Private views of woods. \$894,700. #228353



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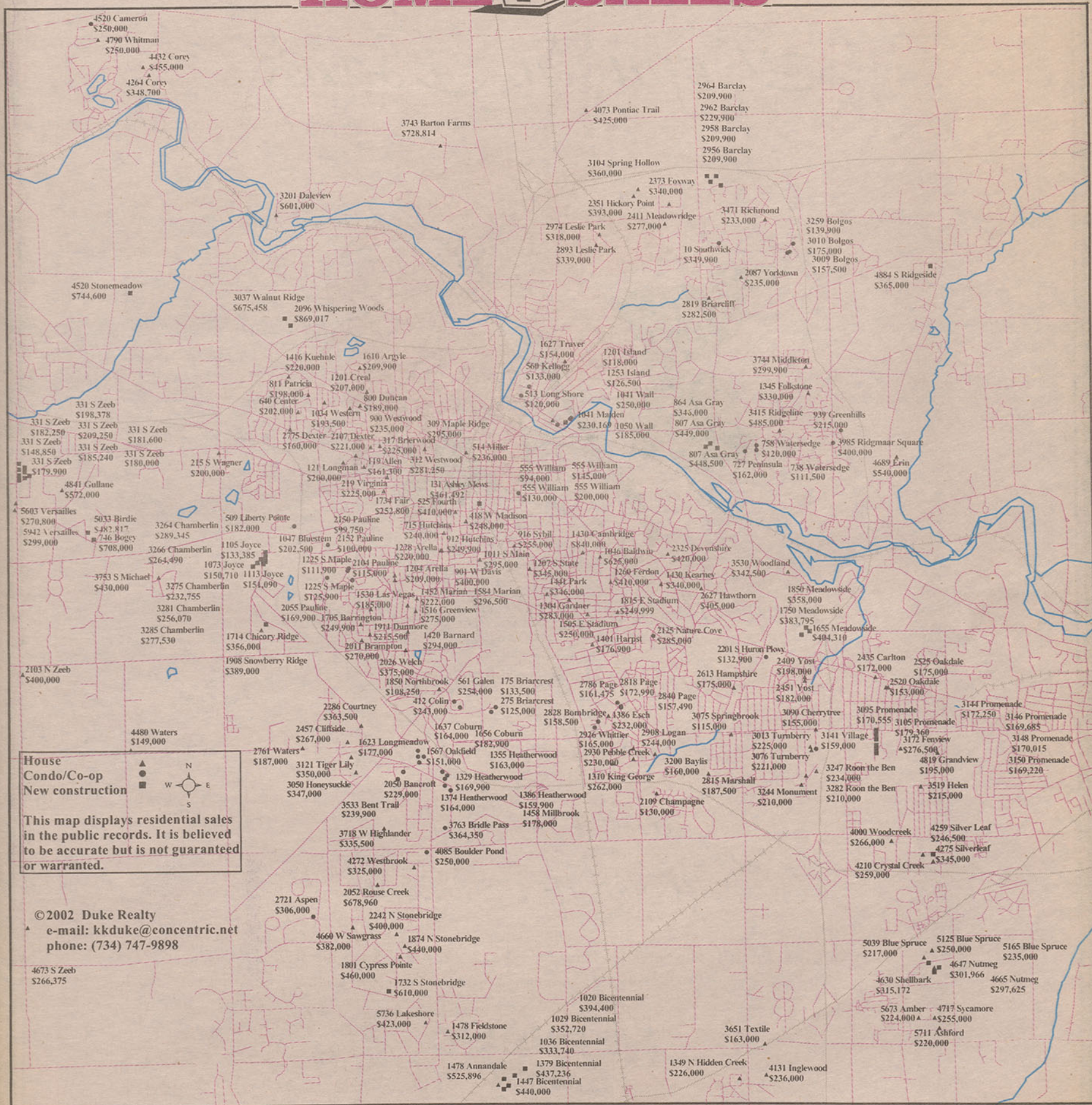
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OCTOBER 2002 HOME SALES



Only 175 homes were reported sold in October, down from 229 in October 2001. This provocative dip pulled year-to-date figures for 2002 down 2 percent from last year, counting sales of both new and existing homes. The "missing" sales are proportioned almost evenly between the new and existing markets: compared to last year, this year's running total is down by twenty-one new-home sales and twenty-seven resales.

While the number of sales may be a little short, homes aren't lingering on the market. According to the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors database, the median single-family home took just twenty-eight days to sell this year (half took more time, half took less), exactly the same as in 2001. Our results are based on a sample of 1,091 homes sold between January and October in 2001 compared to a sample of 1,073 sales during the first ten months of

2002 in the Ann Arbor school district.

The median price has not stalled, either. For existing single-family homes, the median is up 4 percent so far this year, to \$248,000, counting both homes sold by Realtors and homes sold by owners.

The expensive stuff continues to sell just as well as it did last year, too. Some 285 homes of every stripe—new and existing, condo and single family—have sold for \$400,000 or more so far this year—an-

other perfect match with the tally for the first ten months of 2001. And top-end homes are still as hot as last year. Nine homes sold for \$1 million or more in the first ten months of 2002, including two that appear on the map this month. A home at 2670 Geddes in Ann Arbor Hills went for \$1,302,000, while another at 3117 Overridge attracted \$1,345,000.

—Kevin Duke

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ANN ARBOR HILLS—Tastefully updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch on spacious site. Partially finished lower level. Ready to move in. \$354,900. **FELICE FERGEL**, 734-223-4455 www.FeliceFergel.com. (229544)



BURNS PARK GEM!—1,225 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 2-story, 17x19 living room with fireplace opens to private courtyard backyard with hot tub. Gorgeous new kitchen/dining room, all hardwood. Walk 2 blocks to UofM athletics. \$269,900. **DAVE DEAN**, 302-8821/216-7780 www.TheDeanTeam.com. (228700)



ORCHARD PLACE—Rent/Option possible. Spacious 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath 1994 contemporary, finished walkout, high ceilings, hilltop treed and beautifully landscaped lot. Close to schools, Black Pond Forest, Leslie Park, Kerrytown, UofM. \$399,900. Call **DAVE DEAN**, 302-8821/216-7780 www.TheDeanTeam.com. (225-416)



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AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY—very well maintained 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath condo with garage, clubhouse & pool. Marble gas fireplace, quality updated kitchen with lots of cupboards, neutral décor & 300+ sq. ft. living space in lower level. \$187,900. **THE PEARSALL TEAM**, 734-302-8800 www.specializinginresults.com. (225959)



NEW LISTING—Move into this spacious 2,666 sq. ft. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home. Formal living room & dining room, family room with marble surround fireplace, kitchen with maple cabinets & pull-out storage pantry, 2nd floor laundry, master suite. \$369,900. **THE PEARSALL TEAM**, 734-302-8800, www.specializinginresults.com. (229430)



BOTANICAL BLISS—Most delightful brick ranch in the whole sub! Clean, charming, lovingly cared for by retired couple. Roof, furnace & a/c, electrical/plumbing, new carpet, ref., hot water, stove, gutters, dishwasher, garage door opener. Beautiful unbelievable botanical surprises await you in the springtime! \$208,750. **DAVID WHITE**, 734-368-5050 DavidSellsMichigan.com. (259564)



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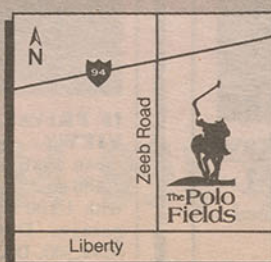
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ADVERTISERS INDEX

A&M Pet Crematory & Memories	89	Matt Dejanovich—Real Estate One.....	130	Mobile Mower Repair	99
Abbott's Landscape Nursery	21	Delia's Salon	90	Monahan's Seafood Market	117
Abnacadabra	108	Delux Drapery & Shade	86	Motawi Tileworks	70
Ace Barnes Hardware	18	Dental Faculty Associates (U-M).....	39	Mr. Dee's Seafood 'N' Things	112
Acme Mercantile	108	Detroit Symphony Orchestra	69	Mudpuddles toy store	63
Afternoon Delight Cafe	111	Dexter Cabinet Works	94	Muehlig Funeral Chapel	36
Ali Baba Finest Middle East Cuisine	113	Dexter's Pub	108	My Handyman	28
Allstate Darts & Billiard Accessories	23	DiBella's Old Fashioned Submarines	62	Naked Furniture	82
American Cancer Society	104	Dobson McOmber Insurance	18	Nickels Arcade	15
American Hair Loss Institute	44	DogmaCatmantoo	64	One-on-One	45
American Maids	9	Don Carlos Mexican Restaurant	104	Overture Audio	43
Ann Arbor Academy	81	Downtown Home & Garden	63	Dave Owens, management	31
Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce	58	Dragon's Lair Futons & Furnishings	115	Pamela's Bridal Salon	90
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation	20	Dream On Futons	96	Peachtree Montessori Preschool	80
Ann Arbor Art Center	85	The Earle restaurant	114	Pewabic Pottery	70
Ann Arbor Artisan Market	54	Eastover Center	30	Phyllis A. Phillips	95
Ann Arbor Ballet Theater	85	Elizabeth J. Interiors	96	Edward Surovell Realtors	95
Ann Arbor Civic Theater	77	Elizabeth's Bridal Manor	93	Piano Nation	2
Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase	100	Emerald City Chinese Restaurant	113	Pizza Arbor	110
Ann Arbor Consultation Services	85	Emerson School	81	Potters Guild	71
Ann Arbor Cosmetic & Laser Center	32	Esquire Interiors	30	Premier Package	128
Ann Arbor Cyclery	45	European Skin & Body Care	96	Doog Price Photographs	75
Ann Arbor Dermatology	38	Evans Street Station Restaurant	112	Proctor Publications	93
Ann Arbor District Library	72	Falling Water Books & Collectables	59	Produce Station	61
Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club	78	Farah & Associates, dentistry	36	Purple Rose Theater	73
Ann Arbor Framing Company	73	Fieldstone Village Condominium	131	Quality 16 Theaters	139
Ann Arbor Girls Middle School	84	Findings for Artists & Seekers	63	Queen of Hearts	107
Ann Arbor Hills Child Development Center	78	First Presbyterian Church	15	Quinn's Essentials	60
Ann Arbor Observer	31, 93, 97, 98, 100, 124, 126, 128, 135, 137, 138	Flatsnoots Christmas Trees	87, 89, 91	RE/MAX Community Associates	135
Ann Arbor Open School	93	Flying Sheep Yarns	88	Real Estate One	129
Ann Arbor Public Schools	14	Food Gatherers	31	Real Estate One—Matt Dejanovich	130
Ann Arbor Therapeutic Massage Clinic	38	Forma Fine Crafts	22	Recycle Ann Arbor	99
Ann Arbor Transportation Authority	29	Foto 1—One Hour Photo	62	Charles Reinhart Company Realtors	126
Ann Arbor Vascotomy Clinic	32	Frames Unlimited	62	Renaissance, men's clothing	58
Ann Arbor Women's City Club	75	Friends of CASA	79	Republic Bank	134
Ann Arbor Youth Choral	81	Frontline Church	21	Ron's Garage	27
Arbor Brewing Company	106	Georgetown Condominiums	131	Running Fit	43
Arbor Farms Natural Foods Market	108	Georgetown Gifts	61	Salon XL	87
Arbor Hospice	35	Glacier Hills Retirement Center	34, 55	Schlanderer & Sons, jewelers	22, 57
Arbor Springs Water	102	Gold Bond Cleaners	42	John Shultz Photography	59
Arbor Vacuum	7	Debi Gould, Realtor	126	Dick Siegel, A Little Pain Never Hurt	100
arborweb.com	31, 124	Great Harvest Bread Company	113	Gail Sinelli, Realtor	73
Architectural Artifacts	75	Great Lake Chinese Restaurant	106	Greg Sobran, artist	71
Argiero's Italian Restaurant	9	Great Land Supermarket	106	Fred Sons, photographer	86
Arts in Motion Dance Studio	78	Great Oak Cohousing Community	46	Steve Steeb Service	95
Austin & Warburton	62	Grizzly Peak Brewing Company	114	Rudolf Steiner School	85
Ave Maria Gallery	70	Haven, home furnishings	61	Summers-Knoll School	84
Avenue Gallery—Thomas Kinkade	116	Hearing Care Center	38	Sun & Snow Sports	28
B&B Heartwoods	95	Henrietta Fahrenheit	96	Super Janitors	9
BRG Custom Homes	136	Herman Thompson Therapeutic Massage	102	Sutton Development	131
Bacardi Ciclon	3	Hilgenblott's Specialty Meats	139	Edward Surovell Realtors—Caitlin A. Phillips	95
Bacardi rum	136	Hiller's Market	112	Sweetwaters Cafe	107
Barnes & Noble Booksellers	12	Hillside Terrace	32	Talking Colors Art School	83
Baron Glassworks	75	Hollander's School of Book and Paper Arts	109	Wilson P. Tanner III, PLC, attorneys	16
Baxter's Wine Shop, Deli, & Bakery	106	Home Builders Association of Washtenaw County	88	Arbor Hills Hair & Body Salon	90
Bellantina Day Spa & Gift Boutique	103	Honey Creek Community School	82	Paul Thacker, portrait photographer	21
Bennett Optometry	4	Huron Camera & Video	91	Thredz women's boutique	57
John & Jayne Berkaw—Real Estate One	135	Huron Scuba	45	Three Chairs Company	50
Big City Small World Bakery	112	Huron Valley Financial, Inc., mortgages	132	Thrift Shop of Ann Arbor	88
Big George's Home Appliance Mart	99	In Touch Therapeutic Massage	90	Tios Mexican Restaurant	65
Birkenstock, Fourth Ave.	139	It's All about You, party planning	55	Tortoise & Hare	43
Bivouac	17	It's Just Lunch dating service	5	Traver Village Shopping Center	8
Blue Nile restaurant	111	Jewel Heart Store	92	Treasure Mart	87
Borders Books & Music	24	Jules Furniture	22	Trimble Associates, Ltd., interior design	86
Martin Bouma, Realtor	127	Sally Kelley Real Estate	89	Turner's Landscape & Design	64
Nicolette Boszik Interiors	30	Kerrytown Bistro restaurant	104	U-M Center for the Development of Language	83
Briarwood Ford	18	Kerrytown Historic Market District	65	U-M Museum of Art	74
Elizabeth Brien, Realtor	131	Kerrytown Market & Shops	57	U-M School of Art & Design	76
British Pantry/Tea Garden Cafe	88	Kids Go Blue	83	U-M School of Music	68
Cabinet Clinic	98	Kilwin's Chocolates	109	USA Hockey	45
Candy Bouquet	109	King's Chosen Artists	9	United Bank & Trust	24
Castle Remedies	39	King's Keyboard House	17	University Commons	26
Center for Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	92	Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor	65	University Living	34
Chelsea Community Hospital	39	Knit A Round Yarn Shop	89	University Musical Society	66
Chelsea Retirement Communities	6	Land Architects	86	Van Boven Clothing	42
Child Care Solutions	80	Landau Custom Homes	131	Venta-Airwasher	18
China Gate Restaurant	104	Language Link	92	Vicki's Wash & Wear Haircuts	92
Christian Montessori School of Ann Arbor	79	John Leidy Shop	59	The Village at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital	37
City of Ann Arbor—Transportation (snow removal)	48	Carolyn Lepard, Realtor	29	Village Pharmacy II	55
Clearweave web design	102	Liberty Pediatrics	81	Washtenaw Intermediate School District	82
Cleary University	26	Lotus Gallery	73	Weber's Inn	64
Closest Company of Mid Michigan	98	Lurie Terrace	34	Welcome Home cleaning service	94
Coffee Express	54	MOSA Audiology	32	WideWorld Sports Center, indoor soccer	44
Coleman's Four Seasons Market	10	Mac's Acadian Seafood Shack	110	Wild Birds Unlimited	56
The Common Grill	107	Main Street Area Association	52	Work of Art	79
Community Education & Recreation	43	Dr. Herbert Malinoff, addiction treatment	35	Workbench Furniture	27
Community Television Network	56, 97	Materials Unlimited	60	Yourist Pottery & Design	70
Conor O'Neill's Irish pub	106	McKinley Alliance	1	Zimmer Foundation	93
The Container Store	91	Merchant of Vino	54	Zingerman's Community of Businesses	116
Howard Cooper, auto sales	16	Merkel Home Furnishings	80		
Cottage Inn Catering	111	Metzger's German Restaurant	110		
Country on the Avenue	60	Mezzanine	22		
Dale Carnegie	100	Michigan Theater	77		
Dance Classics	83	Michigan Vein Center	38		
Dancer's Boutique	78	Miles of Golf	44		
Daniel's on Liberty	51				
Dan's River Grill	105				

DISCOVER

Great money-saving coupons in every issue of the Observer

ACE Barnes Hardware	18	Falling Water Books	59
Ali Baba Middle Eastern Cuisine	113	It's All About You	55
Ann Arbor Artisan Market	54	Pewabic Pottery	70
Ann Arbor Cosmetic & Laser Ctr	32	Pizza Arbor	110
Ann Arbor Dermatology	38	Quality 16 Theaters	139
Ann Arbor Framing Company	73	Ron's Garage	27
Borders Books & Music	24	Anne Taritas	90
Castle Remedies	39	Village Pharmacy II	55
China Gate Restaurant	104	Wild Birds Unlimited	56
Dragon's Lair Futons	6	Workbench Furniture	27



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Arbor Farms	arborfarms.com
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Martin Bouma	bouma.com
Bronson Heating	bronsonheating.com
Christian Montessori	cmsaa.org
City of Ann Arbor	a2gov.org
Clearweave	clearweave.com
Dexter Cabinet Works, Inc.	dextercabinetworks.com
Dixboro General Store	dixboro.com
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Great Harvest Bread Company	greatharvest.com
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Ann Arbor Observer

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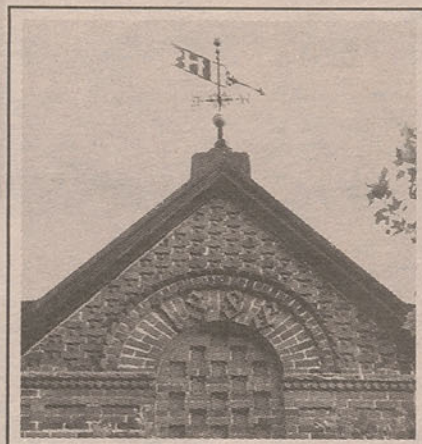
I SPY

by Sally Bjork

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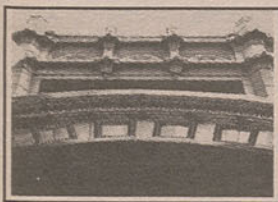


To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the riddle above and the photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

November's mystery building, at 319-325 South Main, was constructed in 1925 for tailors Demetrio and Anthony Marchese. Designed by Ann Arbor architect Hermann Pipp, it has a striking terra-cotta facade that incorporates Gothic elements in an Art Deco design. The Marchese brothers had their tailoring shop on the first floor and residences above until the Great Depression, when Henry Whitker took over ownership. Today retail

and gallery space fills the first floor, with offices above.

A tenant of one of those offices, Diane M. Agresta, Psy.D., was among the nine people who recognized the building. "The owners, Jim and John Curtis, did a beautiful job with the copper awning" during a recent restoration, Agresta noted. Rebecca Zurier of Ann Arbor, whose entry was drawn at random from the correct ones, will receive a copy of the latest edition of *Historic Buildings: Ann Arbor, Michigan*, by Marjorie Reade and Susan Wineberg.



FAKE AD

by Jay Forstner

Last month's Fake Ad for Friends of Firefighters International (p. 40 of the November issue) suggested that people should build wood homes to give firefighters more business. It elicited 183 correct entries, including one from Ann Arbor's Jan Adams-Watson.

"Since I really do support the firefighters by living in an older, more combustible house with real wood hardwood floors and real wooden kitchen cabinets, I think I deserve to win this month," Adams-Watson wrote. "Keep up the good work in support of the firefighters."

Master firefighter Jeff Buchanan, also of Ann Arbor, entered our contest, too. "As a firefighter I am not sure how to take it," Buchanan wrote. In the proper spirit, of course.

Ann Arbor's Diane Averill, a frequent Fake Adder, won our random drawing. She's taking her gift certificate to Mac's Acadian Seafood Shack in Saline.

To enter the contest for December, identify the Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below.

Friends of Firefighters was headquartered in Arborweb, Georgia, fictional namesake of the Observer's website, arborweb.com—and arborweb is tucked into the December Fake Ad also (but less blatantly this month). The winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

I WOOD!

Honor America's true heroes by investing in their future. Fire departments nationwide have been jeopardized by understaffing, budget cutbacks, and the false notion that they are unnecessary.

The next time you build or remodel your home, use stylish, traditional, combustible wood and wood products. Your intelligent choice will help guarantee the job security of America's brave firefighters.

Sponsored by Friends of Firefighters International, P.O. Box 1326, Arborweb, Georgia.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Fax: (734) 769-4950. E-mail: penny@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Tuesday, December 10, are eligible for the December drawings.

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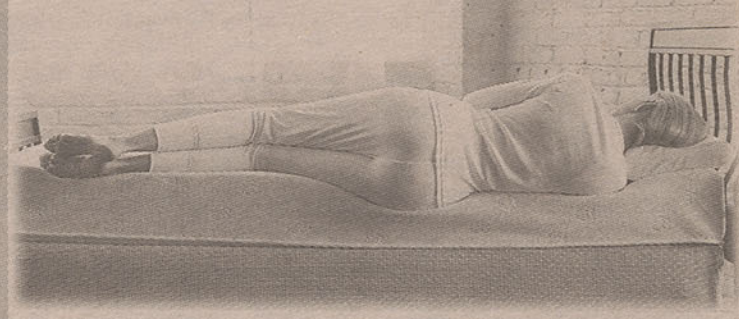
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EVENTS AT A GLANCE



Like Water Drumworks



O. J. Anderson



Madcat & Kane



Five Guys Named Moe



Mr. B

Ypsilanti's New Year's Eve Jubilee features top-notch local musicians and entertainers at eleven spots in and around Depot Town all evening. Performances include African drumming by Like Water Drumworks; comedy by O. J. Anderson; boogie-woogie piano by Mr. B; blues, folk, and jazz by Madcat and Kane; acoustic swing and jazz by Five Guys Named Moe; and much more.

A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. 67 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p. 67.

Classical & Religious Music

- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 1
- Electronic music composer Robert Newcomb, Dec. 6
- University Choral Union *Messiah*, Dec. 6 & 7
- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 7
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 7
- Pianist Louis Nagel, violinist Stephen Shippis, & cellist Anthony Elliott, Dec. 7
- Ann Arbor Concert Band, Dec. 8
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Choir, Dec. 8
- Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, Dec. 8
- Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 10 & 15
- Dave Brubeck Trio and the First Presbyterian Church Choir in Brubeck's *La Fiesta de la Posada*, Dec. 11 & (tentatively) 12
- Emerson String Quartet, Dec. 13
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 14 & 15
- Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, Dec. 14
- Sacred Song sacred music chorus, Dec. 14
- Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 15
- Measure for Measure men's chorus, Dec. 15
- Lessons & Carols at two area churches, Dec. 24

Lectures & Readings

- Poet Rick Hilles, Dec. 5
- Actor-novelist Billy Dee Williams & novelist Elizabeth Bowman, Dec. 13
- Novelist Nicholas Delbanco, Dec. 15
- Novelist John Smolens, Dec. 16

Films

- Sing-along screening of *My Fair Lady*, Dec. 25

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Steve Forbert (singer-songwriter), Dec. 1
- Dick Siegel (singer-songwriter), Dec. 2
- Jim Roll (singer-songwriter), Dec. 3
- Mars III (Christian hip-hop), Dec. 4
- Mary Lee's Corvette (folk-rock), Dec. 5
- Mulgrew Miller (jazz), Dec. 5
- David Barrett (singer-songwriter), Dec. 6
- George Bedard and Billy Kirchen (rockabilly), Dec. 6
- D. D. Jackson (jazz), Dec. 6 & 7
- Huron Valley Harmonizers and County Connection Sweet Adelines (barbershop), Dec. 7
- Mose Allison (jazz & blues), Dec. 7
- First Unitarian Church Holiday Ragtime Bash, Dec. 8
- Lynn Miles (singer-songwriter), Dec. 8
- Greg Trooper (singer-songwriter), Dec. 9
- Shemekia Copeland (blues), Dec. 10
- Marianne Faithfull (singer-songwriter), Dec. 11
- Don Conoscenti (singer-songwriter), Dec. 13
- Eliane Elias (jazz), Dec. 13 & 14
- Debbie Davies Group (blues), Dec. 13
- Livingston Taylor (singer-songwriter), Dec. 14
- Steppin' in It (country-folk), Dec. 15
- Deborah Mantel & David Mosher (singer-songwriters), Dec. 17
- Ann Arbor Musicians for Peace (singer-songwriter collective), Dec. 20
- Joey DeFrancesco (jazz), Dec. 20 & 21

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- The Battlefield Band (Scottish), Dec. 3
- Josh White Jr. (folk), Dec. 7
- Pub Domain and Millish (Irish), Dec. 12
- Altan (Irish), Dec. 14
- Finvarra's Wren (Celtic), Dec. 21
- "Crossroads Ceili" (Irish), Dec. 28 & 29

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Across the Way* (Purple Rose Theater), every Wed.-Sun. through Dec. 21 (also Dec. 17)
- *Man of La Mancha* (Performance Network), every Thurs.-Sun. through Dec. 22
- *The Yeomen of the Guard* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 5-8
- *Phoenix Premieres II. Funny Stuff* (Phoenix Productions), Dec. 5-8 & 12-15
- *Hamlet* (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 5-8
- Bert Hornback reads *A Christmas Carol*, Dec. 6
- *The Fantastic Toy Shop* (EMU Music Department), Dec. 6
- Peter Sparling Dance Company, Dec. 7
- *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Arbor Opera Theater), Dec. 7
- *Image of the American Family* (U-M Residential College), Dec. 7
- James Johnson's *De Organizer* (U-M School of Music), Dec. 11
- *Mummy's the Word* (Vitosha Guest Haus), Dec. 13
- *Raftery's Mill* (U-M Residential College), Dec. 14 & 15
- Brian Mallon in the one-man show *Playing Burton*, Dec. 19
- *The Nutcracker* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 20-22
- *Chemical Traces: Unabomber Love Story* (Dreamland Theater), Dec. 28

Comedy & Performance Art

- Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, Dec. 3 & 17
- Comic Jim Dailakas, Dec. 5-7
- *Jackass* star Steve-O in "Don't Try This at Home," Dec. 12
- Comic Jimmy Dore, Dec. 12-14
- *Once (Revisited)* classical music & literary arts festival, Dec. 17
- Comic Elvira Kurt, Dec. 19-21
- Comic Bill Hildebrandt, Dec. 26-28

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Rails on Wheels Model Railroad Flea Market and Show, Dec. 1

- Holiday bazaars, sales, & fairs, Dec. 5-7 & 12-14
- Christmas Creche Display, Dec. 6-9
- Holiday Evening in Saline, Dec. 6 & 7
- Chelsea Festival of Lights, Dec. 6-8
- Main Street Festive Friday Nights, Dec. 6, 13, & 20
- Concordia University Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 6-8
- Dexter's Victorian Christmas, Dec. 7 & 14
- Waterloo Area Farm Museum Victorian Christmas, Dec. 7 & 8
- Kempf House German Family Christmas, Dec. 7, 8, 14, & 15
- Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour, Dec. 8
- Grand Traditions Victorian Ball, Dec. 14
- Anthroposophical Society Christmas Festival, Dec. 21
- Ypsilanti New Year's Jubilee, Dec. 31

Family & Kids' Stuff

- Gemini family concert, Dec. 1
- Kiwanis Christmas Sing, Dec. 1
- *The Fantastic Toy Shop* children's show (EMU Music Department), Dec. 6
- Children's Holiday Parade, Dec. 8
- *Alice in Concert* (Young People's Theater), Dec. 12-15 & 19-22
- *Great Expectations* (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 13-15
- *The Nutcracker* (Youth Dance Theater of Michigan), Dec. 13-15
- *The Wizard of Oz* (Wild Swan Theater), Dec. 13-15
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Sing Along with Santa," Dec. 14

Miscellaneous

- U-M Museum of Art World AIDS Day "Day Without Art," Dec. 1 & 2
- Washtenaw Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 21

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Local chiropractor Darren Schmidt discusses the benefits of a "Cave-Dweller Diet," Dec. 10

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